



DAILY REPORT

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NOVOYE VREMYA CALLS FOR REALISM IN MBFR TALKS

LD041145Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 52, 22 Dec 78 pp 8-9 LD

[Political commentator L. Bezymenskiy article: "16 Rounds at Vienna"]

[Excerpts] ...The 16th and latest round of the talks on mutual reductions of armed forces and armaments in central Europe has ended without any visible changes for the better. Of course, no one could expect the representatives of 19 countries meeting in Vienna to be able to solve all the complex problems at a single stroke--the experience of past negotiations indicates otherwise. But why has there been no progress?

A certain type of Western press has a ready answer: The Vienna talks are futile [besperspektivnyy]. The Washington POST even cited utterances originating from certain Western diplomats that the talks "have assumed a kind of unreal nature" and "it is time to seriously analyze their basis, direction and chances for ultimate success." And on 6 December the West German FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE posed a rhetorical question: Must the West continue the talks at all "since their political benefit is declining?"

We are familiar with pessimists of this kind. They did not believe in the possibility of political detente, they do not believe in military detente, and therefore they are gloating over the fact that there have been no improvements at Vienna.

The most surprising thing is that there have been results. Recently, my West German colleague, the well-known journalist Lothar Ruehl, visited Vienna. He stated in the Hamburg weekly DIE ZEIT, not without amazement, that a number of important spheres of negotiation exist where both sides have reached agreement in principle. Thus, wrote Ruehl, there is a unanimous opinion that after the reduction of armed forces and armaments the parity and balance of both sides must be preserved. The reduction is to be carried out--according to unanimous opinion--"collectively," that is, through the establishment of equal levels for the troops of both military organizations. The sides also agreed that the reduction must affect ground forces. All the participants in the talks also agree that the reduction must be carried out in two phases and begin with reductions of troops and armaments of the USSR and the United States. Finally, the principle of "nondetriment" to the security of any side is an undisputed principle for all.

"A draft basis for a future agreement," Ambassador E. Keblusek, head of the CSSR delegation, declared at a press conference, "is already on the negotiating table...."

It should merely be added that a paradoxical situation is developing. A commonality of views exists and agreements in principle have been achieved on a number of important questions, but the Western delegations are categorically refusing to have these firmly stipulated. Why? Ruehl pulls aside the veil concealing the desires nurtured by certain Western strategists: It emerges that their aim is to "secure the withdrawal of as large a number of Soviet troops as possible!"

It can immediately be stated that this objective in no way accords with the very concept of the Vienna talks. After all, they are called talks on the "mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe," and not talks on the "withdrawal of Soviet troops." Otherwise the Soviet Union's representatives would hardly have sat patiently at the round table in Vienna's Hofburg Palace.

However, there are substantial grounds for Lothar Ruehl's supposition. It is known that from the very first days, NATO diplomats attempted to secure a notorious "asymmetric reduction" of troops, holding that the Warsaw Pact troops surpass the numbers of NATO troops in Europe. That went on for several years until finally official data on both sides were compiled. They showed an approximate parity and, it seemed, the issue disappeared.

But no! Something like a "theater of the absurd" is now playing in Vienna. The Warsaw Pact countries submitted their data and the NATO countries are asserting that these data understate the position by 150,000 men. As the recent sessions in the Hofburg Palace have shown, the NATO delegates reiterate the figure "150,000" as a means of blocking the talks. Change the figures, they say, otherwise there will be no agreement....

I am not inclined to see in this anything more than a tactical maneuver. Western diplomats can hardly count on succeeding in convincing their colleagues that they are capable of counting money in someone else's pocket. But there is also another fundamental aspect of the matter: If the West does not choose to believe the socialist countries' data, it is thereby attempting to call into question the elementary basis of the talks--mutual trust. This is no longer a matter of statistics but of policy. If today the West does not believe our figures, what basis will we have tomorrow for trusting the West's readiness to bring its arms forces into conformity with the figures which might be agreed at Vienna? There is one way out: to return to the basis of mutual trust.

N.K. Parasov, the head of the Soviet delegation, recently said: The official figures were submitted to reflect the situation on 1 January 1976. There were 981,000 men in the NATO forces and 987,300 in the Warsaw Pact countries' forces. However, whereas the Soviet Union and the socialist countries in the meantime have not increased this number, the situation has been quite different with NATO. The United States alone has added 16,000 men to its forces.

The Warsaw Pact countries have long since proposed that forces should not be increased during the talks, but in November 1978 they submitted new proposals at Vienna, securing this important idea. But NATO does not even want to hear about this! As can be seen, the Atlantic strategists do not intend to agree to any proposals which might hamper arms escalation.

Experience shows that the longer the attainment of positive results is dragged out, the more difficult this becomes. The Vienna talks began in 1973. At that time there was not even any talk of the neutron bomb. But in 1978 the neutron bomb is now casting an ominous shadow upon the negotiating table at Vienna. In 1973 there had not even been any talk of cruise missiles as part of NATO's armaments, but now they are being prepared for dispatch to Western Europe.

There is another no less dangerous process taking place: While the talks are going on in Vienna, the Atlantic mechanism is operating with increasing rapidity. While the propaganda apparatus is straining itself to the utmost in an effort to convince the world about an unreal "Soviet danger," NATO is making very real decisions about increasing military spending and building up military potential in Europe. These decisions are not just on paper, and they are seriously threatening the approximate parity that has taken shape in central Europe.

Alas, the growth of tension has its own fatal automatism. On the other hand the detente process lacks this automatism--it requires a search for new solutions and constant initiative. It is precisely for this reason that on 8 June 1978 the Warsaw Pact countries submitted proposals aimed at drawing the sides's views closer together. A structure for a future agreement was drawn up in very great detail in these proposals.

At the recent conference of the Warsaw Pact member-countries Political Consultative Committee, the program put forward at Vienna was fully confirmed. As the conference's declaration stressed, this program encompasses the whole complex of problems under discussion and insures the equality of the armed forces of the two sides with a substantial reduction of their levels in comparison with the present levels. The declaration makes this appeal: "The cause of military detente in Europe should be resolutely advanced and effective steps should be taken to lower the level of military opposition on the European Continent while insuring the undiminished security of all European states."

However, throughout the 16th round, the West has not taken a single step toward a compromise. And whereas earlier many prominent politicians and press organs of the West had acknowledged the constructive nature of the June proposals, the overall tone of the Western commentaries has now changed.

He who has eyes, let him see, and he who has ears, let him hear. The countries of the socialist community, in submitting their proposals in June 1978 gave an important signal: They opened up the way toward an agreement. In turn, much has been written in the West about "the signal from Reykjavik"--which is the name they gave to the decision taken at the NATO session in the Icelandic capital in 1968 to enter into negotiations on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments. Indeed, Western Europe's politicians at that time realized the need for measures for military detente in the center of the continent on which the countries of the socialist community had long ago displayed initiative. It is now a question of transforming intentions into real agreements, a readiness for which has been signaled by the socialist countries through their proposals at Vienna.

But has this signal been understood? Will the tactical feints and barren illusions in the West's stance at Vienna be replaced by realism and a political will for agreement? That is the question.

INTERNATIONAL TOPICS DISCUSSED ON 'STUDIO NINE'

LD042050Y Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1525 GMT 16 Dec 78 LD

["Studio Nine" program presented by Valentin Zorin, Soviet radio and television observer, with Leonid Zamyatin and Nikolay Shishlin]

NATO Military Spending

[Text] [Zorin] [intercepted in progress] (Zakoruchenko), war veteran from Kharkov, (Leonid Ivanovich Belov), machine operator from Kurganskaya Oblast, and many, many other viewers. I think it would be right if we began our discussion today with this problem, particularly since last week a routine session of NATO--the North Atlantic bloc--was held in Brussels.

The final document of the session in Brussels was a rather extensive document--the closing communique--consisting of 18 paragraphs. To put it mildly this document cannot be considered as contributing toward international detente. On the contrary, it reflects the policy of the leaders of this military-political bloc directed at increasing armaments and armed forces in Europe. NATO leaders are attempting to justify to world opinion their policy of increasing the military arsenal in Europe by exaggerating in every way the counterfeited campaign about the Soviet threat, and operating with obviously falsified or even simply made-up figures. While virtually keeping silent about the constructive proposals of the Warsaw Pact countries concerning the reduction of the level of armed forces of the Warsaw Pact and NATO in central Europe, the NATO countries continue to increase their armed forces and, in the case of the United States, even their military presence. In recent years the U.S. military presence has not only not been reduced, but has been increased.

I would like to ask you, Leonid Mitrofanovich, to begin our discussion with an evaluation of the recently ended routine session of the NATO Council.

[Zamyatin] It is not the fault of the socialist countries that the path to detente has become so long and complicated. Detente itself was not free from relapses into the cold war. The reasons for these processes should be looked for primarily in the Western circles which oppose detente and which cannot become reconciled to the correlation of forces which now exists in the world. What resolutions has this NATO session adopted? I must note primarily that this session was an organic continuation of the discussions at the NATO session held in May of this year in Washington. This is where the fundamental directions of the activities of the North Atlantic bloc were determined--the military, political and economic activities for the next few years. It was there that decisions were adopted envisaging a total increase of contributions by NATO countries to NATO by \$80 billion for the next 10 years, on top of the existing military budgets of each member country of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Developing this situation at the Brussels session at the insistence of the United States and certain other leading NATO states, a decision was adopted to the effect that, irrespective of the course of disarmament talks in which NATO countries are participating together with Warsaw Pact countries, the military allocations of each country of the North Atlantic bloc should increase 3 percent annually in real terms.

Recently there have been several statements saying that the NATO budget was increased--just like the military expenditure of the United States itself--because these countries are going through a period of inflation, and that the \$130 billion which the United States has allocated for this financial year for military purposes is a reflection of the inflationary process.

To prove that such assertions are ridiculous, I would like to quote the communique of the Brussels session itself, which says that the annual 3 percent increase in the military budget of each NATO member will be implemented in real terms. This means that the military and political leaders of the NATO bloc do not quote the inflationary processes in any way. Another no less important decision adopted at the Brussels session was the decision to establish a special new system of early military warning--AWACS.

[Zorin] Leonid Mitrofanovich, this term has appeared recently in the press and I would like to ask you to explain to our viewers what it is.

[Zamyain] I would be glad to do so, but I would like to say first that this entire system costs the NATO countries \$2 billion according to preliminary estimates. The AWACS system is in no way what they claim it to be. What is it in fact? It is a system of electronic radar reconnaissance which will be carried out by the United States and other NATO countries from U.S. aircraft specially equipped for such reconnaissance, and which will cruise at various heights near the borders of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. The system differs from reconnaissance aircraft of sad memory, the U-2--these aircraft will stay at a distance of about 50 kilometers from the borders of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

However, the equipment they carry--radar and electronic equipment, including miniature electronic computers--will make it possible to effect deep penetration--electronic penetration, radar penetration--of the territories of countries along whose borders the aircraft fly. Figures of 400 kilometers are quoted, as are higher figures of 500 kilometers. In fact the electronic radar system can observe everything that occurs in the zone covered by the system of the flying aircraft.

Moreover, each aircraft is a kind of command center for NATO, where data are processed by electronic computers. This command center is connected to surface systems such as tactical missile and other NATO units which can aim at definite targets of the other side, let us call it for the moment, with the aid of these aircraft.

This is what this new AWACS system is. It is an electronic radar reconnaissance system with deep penetration of the territories of socialist countries.

[Shishlin] Here is another circumstance. For example, a political leader like Strauss is already saying that in having an early detection system it is essential to have a system of penetration for the zones which are being electronically surveyed.

[Zamyatin] What we are saying now about the NATO session in Brussels is closely connected with the general world situation, because several other decisions were adopted at this session. One of these decisions is connected with the modernization of already existing American missiles, including those stationed on the territory of the FRG. They are "Pershing" missiles, they are tactical missiles. And there are the "Lance" missiles, and the warheads of these missiles are being re-equipped to make it technically possible to install neutron armaments, of which so much has been said and still is being said in the United States, in case an opportunity or necessity arises when the United States considers it essential. The separate components of this weapon are in the production stage.

I would like, comrade viewers, to give you a clear picture of the military preparations of the North Atlantic bloc, which are being carried out under cover of several measures which are discussed on a psychological and propaganda level as a response to a possible threat from the Soviet Union.

I would like to read to you a short excerpt from a speech by Mr Vance, U.S. secretary of state. He was speaking at a session of the Royal Institute of International Relations in London. The plans for the modernization of the U.S. strategic armed forces include the ground, sea and air components of our armed forces. We are developing a new intercontinental ballistic missile and are carefully studying the possibility of basing new intercontinental ballistic missiles in order to find the best of various alternatives offered to us. The U.S. secretary of state said: Next year we will display a new submarine-based missile. And we are building a new strategic submarine. We are implementing a wide-scale program for the production of a cruise missile with long-range radio control, including the type launched from the air as well as a type to be launched from the sea and the ground. These programs will insure that the military might of the NATO bloc will remain sufficient to contain an attack from the Warsaw Pact countries.

[Shishlin] There are in this speech by Vance, which you have mentioned, two very curious sections. One is in fact the quintessence of the political conclusions reached by the U.S. secretary of state. He says that NATO countries must maintain the superiority of military power. This is the first premise. The second feature is also curious. It is curious at the end. He does not refer directly to Churchill's Fulton speech, but, in fact, quotes it. He remembers Churchill and calls for a unification of forces of European states with the U.S. We know on what plane this unification of forces is developing now: It is the \$130 billion of the American budget which you mentioned, and it is the more than \$50 billion spent by the European NATO members this year.

[Zamyatin] Excuse me, I have already mentioned that all this is being created--and Vance has said so--under the cover of an enormous propaganda campaign, which costs the media and several U.S. organizations very much to influence public opinion to believe that all this modernization of armaments are explained by the existing Soviet threat and the possibility of the first nuclear blow against the United States planned by the Soviet Union, as they say.

[Zorin] And they are just taking retaliatory measures.

[Zamyatin] That is right. Harriman, an outstanding political figure, who spent difficult years in our country together with us--years when we were fighting a war against fascist Germany--has recently visited Moscow. He spoke about these arguments to journalists as follows: Only paranoids can say that the Russians are preparing the first nuclear blow against the United States, and that they base their policy on this.

A group of U.S. senators has visited Moscow recently. They were led by Mr Ribicoff. It consisted of representatives of different political persuasions. There were people who understood quite soberly that it is now necessary to conduct a policy for the conclusion of SALT. In fact the conclusion of such an agreement which would lower the ceilings and levels of the more dangerous means of waging war and of strategic weapons.

Judging from the latest reports this agreement is now making progress in its formulation. It is not out of the question that it will be completed this year or at the beginning of next year. This describes the sober approach of the U.S. circles who see in this a quite correct trend in the interests of the world. That is the trend toward a reduction in military confrontation in the most sensitive sphere--the sphere of strategic weapons.

At the same time, when we spoke with the senators, there were people who, under the influence of American propaganda, the media and the enormous influence of this moral and political climate disseminated particularly actively in the last 2 years about the Soviet military threat, simply spoke to us in the language of the cold war. They said that the Soviet Union is increasing its armed forces to an extent which exceeds the needs of defense. Or they said that the Soviet Union has concentrated armed forces in Europe and is increasing these armed forces which are a threat to the cause of peace.

However, we deputies of the Supreme Soviet replied to these arguments of the senators and said: Dear sirs, if you are afraid of the arms race in Europe, why is it that for several years we have been unable to agree with you on a quite simple question in Vienna? The question is that during the period of the talks in Vienna--they have been going on since 1973, almost 6 years now--each side should pledge not to increase arms and armed forces in Europe. The reply followed: Yes, but this proposal would consolidate the superiority of the Soviet Union in arms and armed forces in Europe.

We answered that our proposal of 8 June essentially meets your wishes in this respect. We propose that ceilings for arms and armed forces--armed forces primarily--should be simultaneously lowered in Europe to 900,000 for each bloc, and ground forces to 700,000. This is a clear proposal. They say that you are proposing such a reduction and yet at the same time the number of armed forces in the Warsaw Pact seems to be higher than the number of NATO armed forces in Europe.

I would like to say in this case that the data presented by both sides for examination at the Vienna talks prove something different. The military groups of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, according to official figures presented by each side on its forces in this region, show the following: The total number of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries is 987,300. The total number of NATO armed forces is 981,000. So the difference is rather small, and our proposal to come to an agreement to reduce the forces and to create the ceilings I have just mentioned should remove these fears. Atlantic bloc countries are not interested in accepting these proposals. We still have had no reply to them from the Western powers.

Our principle in questions of disarmament--rather our approach to questions of disarmament--is that it cannot be one-sided, that disarmament must be implemented by both sides maintaining the principle of equal security.

[Shishlin] This is what the entire problem is about. The decisions of the NATO sessions, both in Washington and in Brussels, seem to us to be as follows: That NATO will continue to arm and the Soviet Union and its friends and allies must reverse direction. As a result, a rather paradoxical picture arises--that it is possible to achieve a unified purpose--disarmament--if the sides move in diametrically opposite directions.

[Zamyatin] You know why this is happening, I expect? It happens because among the Western political figures there are plenty of people who believe that they can continue the arms race and make proposals during the talks which insure superiority for Western countries, which is what we said at the beginning.

And if there is talk of threats which face anyone in the world, then one should talk of the American threat, and it really exists.

I would like to cite a few examples which illustrate the concept about which Mr Vance spoke in his speech in London. He said that the United States is developing a new missile. Yes, they really are producing it. It is a missile provisionally named MX which, according to American data, will be twice as heavy as the existing strategic Minuteman-3 missiles and will be equipped with a warhead with 12 nuclear devices, each of which can carry a 350-kiloton nuclear charge. The U.S. press believes that if this missile is developed, they can produce about 250 such missiles with a total of about 3,000 nuclear warheads.

Another example: Mr Vance spoke of the development of cruise missiles. We have already told our viewers what they are and what kind of weapons they are. They are carried on aircraft and can be delivered to any distance. However, the United States now envisages increasing these missiles in the near future to 11,000 and not only placing them on military aircraft, military bombers, but adapting them for use on ordinary civilian aircraft.

Vance spoke of the creation of new submarines. Presumably he means the Trident system. The program for commissioning 14 new Trident missile-carrying submarines leads to a sharp increase in the number of nuclear warheads for underwater strategic forces. It would be about 7,000, according to the British Institute of Strategic Studies, which is naturally responsible for the accuracy of the figures in the institute's official report.

And finally another example: The United States has the largest aircraft carrier fleet. The United States now has 13 Shock aircraft carriers, each carrying up to 100 aircraft. The nuclear potential of the U.S. aircraft carriers exceeds 1,400 nuclear ammunition units which can be delivered by carrier-based low-flying attack aircraft for thousands of kilometers into the territories of other countries.

There is also talk now in the press that it may be a good thing to begin unilateral disarmament as an example by the Warsaw Pact countries. Under these conditions, when the aggressive NATO bloc is not hiding its program at all--under these conditions can the Warsaw Pact countries begin a onesided disarmament program? Or an arms limitation? We will not be led into a situation in which the defense potential of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries is weakened. Unilateral disarmament is dangerous because it will increase the temptation of the forces which dream of superiority over the Soviet Union and nurture a policy of a position of strength to impose decisions on us. Peace would not be firm in these conditions if one side is weakened while the other grows stronger and increases its armed forces. It is a dangerous thesis for peace, and we cannot agree. This is why Leonid Ilich Brezhnev recently said on this subject quite correctly that we will not agree to the weakening of our defense in the face of the growing military power of imperialism, whatever demagogic arguments are used in its favor.

[Zorin] Leonid Mitrofanovich, you have shown the NATO countries' line in escalating the arms race and have said that the cover for such a policy is the arguments and false inventions about the Soviet threat.

At the end of November, on 22-23 November, a session of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee was held. And since actions matter more than words, I would like to ask you, Nikolay Vladimirovich, to talk about the results of this session in connection with the subject of today's discussion.

Warsaw Pact Session and Disarmament

[Shishlin] Well, it is obvious that the results of the NATO session and the decisions of the Political Consultative Committee provide much food for comparisons and conclusions. If we speak of the substance of the Political Consultative Committee decisions, it would be right to say that the Political Consultative Committee primarily answered the question about the present situation.

I mean the broad and detailed analysis of the international situation contained in the declaration unanimously adopted by members of the Warsaw Pact. This situation analysis has shown that, of course, simultaneous with this very dangerous tendency to escalate the arms race, and primarily the aspiration to secure military supremacy for the NATO bloc, there is another line in international relations. It is also very noticeable. The constructive dialog between the socialist and capitalist countries does not cease. By the way, that this dialog can produce results is proved by the course of SALT, already mentioned, between the USSR and the United States, by the results of the recent visit by American businessmen to the Soviet Union, and by many other examples.

The fact is that the cause of detente itself is advancing even though complications in its course are very great. However, a balanced approach to today's international situation--a realistic approach to today's international situation--caused the Warsaw Pact members to conclude that there is no foundation for pessimism, that the possibilities for progress in strengthening peace are considerable, and that these possibilities are great.

As Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said at the official reception marking the conclusion of the Political Consultative Committee conference, this conference gave an answer to the second question: What should be done in the present conditions? And this is the very essence of the question. The Warsaw Pact stands for disarmament, but it stands for disarmament at the same time and for movement in the same direction on all the differences between capitalist and socialist countries. They must search for agreement on one question at least--the question of preserving peace. The Warsaw Pact countries [words indistinct] which has a definitely all-embracing character and what is more, this platform very carefully takes into account the other sides viewpoint.

In this connection, as Leonid Mitrofanovich and Valentin Sergeyevich said, the question of the Soviet threat arises--the same myth. Facts are necessary in this case. Of course, the Soviet Union has at its disposal sufficient means of defense to safely protect its own interests and the interests of its allies. However, the Soviet Union proposes--and proposes not just in so many words or forms of some noncommittal statements, but in the form of quite practical proposals--the following: for example, that there be approximate parity in strategic arms. But as far as conventional arms are concerned, the Soviet Union is superior to the United States and other Western countries.

The conference of the Political Consultative Committee formulated an important position which is shared by Warsaw Pact members. This is that there is no type of arm, there is no type of weapon that the socialist countries would not be ready to limit and liquidate, but under conditions whereby equal security for all sides is observed.

And finally, there is another important statement: The socialist countries confirm their readiness to simultaneously dissolve the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty, as a first step on the path toward elimination of the blocs' military organizations and the reduction of their military activity.

Of course, those who have ears can hear. These proposals are quite concrete, quite realistic, and prove quite clearly that, as far as the Soviet Union and the other members of the Warsaw Pact are concerned, they stand for the progress of Europe on the path toward liquidation of nuclear or nonnuclear arsenals. They support a lowering of the ceiling for armaments and the number of armed forces, and urge peace be based not on the balance of fear but on disarmament, as Comrade Brezhnev said after the Political Consultative Committee conference.

[Zamyatin] This is a practical strengthening of detente and military detente.

[Shishlin] Yes, because, of course, if the edifice of peace is built on such a foundation as mountains of amassed arms, then such a foundation may finally not be able to support this edifice. In this case, the conclusions of the Political Consultative Committee conference undoubtedly represent a very important initiative, providing a dynamic stimulus to the search for a solution to disarmament problems. There is no doubt that they are key positions. The Political Consultative Committee conference answers the question not only of what should be done, it answers the question of how it should be done. Comrade Brezhnev said that we must march together, strengthening solidarity with all democratic and progressive forces and strengthening solidarity with all those who are interested in strengthening peace.

There are no prizes for guessing what would happen if we follow a unilateral path, if we agree to NATO obtaining superiority over the forces of socialism.

Finally, history has given us rather stern lessons on how superior forces of imperialism are used. However, history has no subjunctive mood. If something happens in history, it cannot be changed later. So we must worry about history today. The essence of the Political Consultative Committee decisions is concern to insure that the world of tomorrow is peaceful.

PRC Role in NATO

[Zorin] I would like to dwell in today's discussion on another aspect of the problem which is rather important. During the session's work in Brussels, the Western press organs carried quite a few reports that the question of China's role in NATO plans was mentioned among problems discussed by participants in this session. Many of our viewers ask us in their letters to dwell on this question and I will ask you, Leonid Mitrofanovich, to answer these viewers.

[Zamyatin] When participants in the NATO session were asked at a press conference whether the Chinese question was discussed and at what level, the reply was that yes, in fact such a discussion took place. This was mentioned in particular by NATO Secretary General Luns. What did they talk about? You know, I think it was a discussion on several levels, although it is difficult to guess. However, one can judge what sort of discussion took place by the final speeches delivered by the leaders of the NATO bloc.

NATO considers China its potential accomplice, I would say. And this was mentioned by none other than U.S. General Haig, commander of the NATO military bloc. I have here an interview he gave to ASSOCIATED PRESS in which he said: Many allies--and I quote--welcome unofficially the decision of the Peking government to modernize its industry and armed forces; if only because this may induce the Russians to shift the distribution of some part of their armaments and military units from Europe to the east. This is the design of NATO strategists.

Haig's Position

[Zorin] I would like to interrupt you for a second, Leonid Mitrofanovich. You have mentioned General Haig. I would like to tell our viewers that this is not simply a statement by a rabid militarist and anti-Soviet, but that behind it lie certain influential forces, especially since Haig does not make statements on this subject alone. General Haig commands the NATO armed forces and is one of the chief organizers of the intimidation campaign of which the Soviet threat is part. It can be said in general that he is a hawk among hawks in NATO.

Incidentally, this general has never been outstanding on the battlefield. He took the basic steps in his career in the political corridors of power, and the world heard of him for the first time during the Watergate scandal. When the scandal was at its height, then President Nixon made him chief of his personal political staff in the White House, and so Haig participated in this entire affair. It was said in Washington that he did nothing to clarify this affair and help the American public understand it. Therefore later, after Nixon was forced to leave the White House and this participant in the Watergate scandal was appointed to the post of NATO armed forces commander, the U.S. public was very critical of the appointment.

However, this is in the past. What is important in this case is something else. I have just recently returned from a visit to the United States. During my stay in Washington I had several conversations with people who know very well what is happening in the political kitchen in Washington. They say that the Republican Party, which lost power 2 years ago when Carter won the presidential elections, is now preparing for the 1980 campaign in order to return to power. The list of possible Republican candidates for the post of president includes the name of General Haig.

I think it is still too soon to make guesses as to whether Haig will be a candidate of the Republicans and Carter's opponent or not. There is still plenty of time for this. What is important is that he is not just a general, not just a man who is now in charge in Brussels, but a man who relies on certain very influential and powerful forces in the United States, which have made him their tool. He is backed by rather powerful forces in Washington. So this must be seriously taken into account in what you were saying, Leonid Mitrofanovich.

[Zamyatin] Well, the playing of the Chinese card against the socialist countries and the use of rabid anti-Soviet and antisocialist statements by the present leadership in China, is one of the aims of the rightwing to which General Haig belongs. He is most hostile to the process of detente in general. This is why he probably got the higher command of the NATO countries. But I must say that this attempt to use China in some way in the calculations mentioned by Haig and other Western politicians is not a simple process at all.

Arms Sales to China

The rearmament of China is envisaged in certain Western countries, some of which have already begun this trade. The leading role here is played so far by two countries. I would name France, which has recently concluded a series of agreements with Peking providing for delivery of electronic equipment. Now there is talk of deliveries of two nuclear power reactors.

The second country now pretending that it wants to grab the Chinese market--but on what level?--plans the sale of not just any goods but military goods--the sale of armaments. This country is Britain. It talks about agreements on the sale of a large consignment of Harrier aircraft.

These statements by the Peking leaders, which at present are directed against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, and China's aspiration to get close to any Western countries at any price to obtain technology, train its cadres and obtain licences from these states--but only in a definite sphere, in a definite direction connected with the military industry--leave no doubt as to where this frantic group, which happened to be at the head of China's power structure, may lead us. The West is nurturing this group and it may happen that after obtaining the arms and the technology for arms production, China will certainly--with its policy of hegemony as shown in Vietnam--turn primarily against the region to which it has long laid claim--Southeast Asia.

[Shishlin] I would like to add that I think that the entire issue of arms sales to China by the West--still a rather new issue--is naturally not devoid of commercial calculations. Naturally the owners of the arms forces see a new market for their death-dealing products in today's China. However, the chief calculation is political, because China appears to the West a factor of pressure on the socialist world, and primarily on the Soviet Union. In this connection I think that this is blind man's buff, a game played blindly, because today's modern China represents a rather complicated picture.

Tatzupao, Leadership Changes

For example, take the process of purges and rehabilitations which at present engulfs this country. At present almost all leaders of provincial committees have been replaced. And out of the deputy leaders of provincial committees--there were 351 of them--285 have been removed. There is a process of rehabilitation in the upper echelon. Recently it was announced that none other than Peng Dehuai [Peng Te-huai] was rehabilitated. He was considered to be at the exact opposite end of the spectrum from Mao Tse-tung in 1959 when the Lushan plenum was held and when Peng Dehuai spoke against Mao Tse-tung's policy, the policy of the Great Leap Forward and the communes, and the policy of retreat from friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

The picture in China is not simple. And let us take a close look at the complicated game of tatzupao reported in our press.

It is really a very complicated game. At the beginning the tatzupao appeared in Tiananmen Square--in two corners of this square and in the commercial street. At the same time these tatzupao were guarded and no one took them down. They were put out freely. Then about 10 days ago Deng Xiaoping said that the authors of the tatzupao have exceeded the permitted limits; they are beginning to attack and criticize Mao Tse-tung and this may wreck the process of consolidation which, as they think in Peking, is going on in the society. You would think that this was a verbal warning to the authors of the tatzupao, which always had a very strong effect in China. Somebody is behind the scenes of these tatzupao. Somebody is conducting the events in one corner of Tiananmen Square and those in another corner of this square. As far as one can judge from some reports, a plenum of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee is being held.

[Zamyatin] And at the same time one of the permanent committees of the Chinese National Assembly representatives is also in session.

[Shishlin] Yes. And it's not known what decisions there will be. They say that the main issues concern agriculture, but in any case some news may appear.

[Zamyatin] You know that some reports have reached the press saying that there are attempts to contain the tatzupao campaign, not because of the interests of various parties, but because it must not show this process of instability in the Chinese leadership because this may slow down the flow of Western capital and arms deliveries, and other trade operations between China and the Western world.

[Shishlin] And this is happening because the West is really alarmed at the Tatzupao campaign. There have been such commentaries.

[Zorin] The tatzupao campaign is not the main thing, it is what is behind it--the struggle for power.

[Shishlin] Of course. But the fact is that there are new colors in Chinese political life. New elements are appearing even if they are not quite clear. However, there is one unchanging element--frantic anti-Sovietism, almost schizophrenic. It is a conscious anti-Sovietism. And why is this happening? This is a question we should always face. This is happening because anti-Sovietism is for today's Chinese leaders, with their sharp clashes and constant factional struggles, the hoop and the clamp which make it possible to hold together to a certain extent the Chinese society in an apparent balance. What is more, anti-Sovietism is a bait, a pure bait and so simple a bait that no worms are spared: to make sure that the West swallows this bait and does just what Leonid Mitrofanovich has said: Give them modern technology, give them military equipment and give them weapons. How far has it gone? Now already, Deng Xiaoping said in his last speeches and interviews and made it clear that they will find a solution to Taiwan, and even. [Zamyatin interrupts]

[Zamyatin] Deng Xiaoping said something else, if you have noticed. He said that at one time the Chinese Communist Party had cooperated with the Kuomintang. Why can we not find forms of cooperation now?

[Shishlin] And they do not hide and tell the Americans clearly that they are interested in creating a union between the United States and China on an anti-Soviet foundation.

This is an anti-Soviet bait and they consider that it will be swallowed by the West. Another important element is that the present Chinese leaders, with their expansionism and their aspiration to hegemony, relations with the West, which have improved, will give the green light for expansion in the direction they will select themselves. Chinese expansion is a reality. It is a reality in the case of heroic Vietnam. It is a reality in the actions undertaken by Kampuchea. It is a fact that all the talks, which the Vietnamese comrades had with Chinese representatives, ended in complete failure because of Beijing's position. It is a fact that China continues to exercise violent pressure on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It is a fact that it was China which pushed the Phnom Penh regime to military actions against Vietnam.

Now the Chinese are making a fuss, saying that a united front of democratic forces and a Central Committee of the National Front were established in Kampuchea, and they say that this is Vietnam's handiwork. They are looking for reasons in Vietnam alone, although these are deliberately false positions. It is known whose arms are used to fight Kampuchean extremists. It is known whose advisers are now in Phnom Penh. It is known whose torrents of arms are flowing to this country. It is known whose fault it is that the richest harvests of death are gathered in Southeast Asia. The fault lies entirely with Beijing.

And if people in the West think that by having chosen Southeast Asia as a direction for its expansion, Beijing will then stop at something, or at least will obediently follow the route mapped out for it by NATO's Western strategists, then they are profoundly mistaken.

Iranian Situation

[Zorin] I would like to dwell on another problem which worries our viewers. We have received many letters on this subject. I mean the latest events in Iran. All the more so since it is connected with the general subject of today's discussion. It is known that there was talk about the fact that not only the geographic Atlantic region comes into NATO's sphere of activities, but also the Near and Middle East was mentioned at the May NATO Council session in Washington. It was said that this region also comes into NATO's sphere of activity. I would like to ask you, Leonid Nitrofanovich, to dwell on this subject.

[Zamyatin] The question of the situation in Iran was discussed at the Brussels NATO session by bilateral contacts and at the level of foreign ministers. It is now known that among other questions the subject of China and Iran will be the subject of discussion on 5 and 6 January in Guadeloupe at the conference to be attended by President Giscard D'Estaing, FRG Chancellor Schmidt, U.S. President Carter and Prime Minister Callaghan.

What is the essence of events in Iran? We have said much about it, in the "world today" program the development of events is daily described. But I would like to say a few words about the reasons for these events.

There are several reasons. The first is the social and material inequality between the majority of Iran's population and a small group of people--including a corrupt group of people belonging to the government, or previous governments, since there were many of them, to the shah's family, which the shah of Iran has mentioned himself--and this injustice has now resulted in these mass strikes and demonstrations taking place in Iran.

But this was not the reason for the events themselves. The reason for these events was the fact that the shah of Iran has recently followed a policy that did not please the Arab countries along the Persian Gulf.

The abundance of American arms--and \$18 billion worth of it was bought, according to official data--resulted in a quarrel between several Arab countries and oil producers, and Iran about whether the Persian Gulf should be considered Persian or Arab. That is, who holds the key to the oil in this region. And it is not ruled out that some Arab countries have taken a hand in the events, which nobody thought would grow into such a tide, just to tease the Iranian regime, so to say. On the other hand, the United States itself, seeing the strengthening of the shah's former and his reliance on the army, a well-equipped army, and his independent policy on the setting of prices in the framework of OPEC, when this independent policy did not please the Americans, it was decided to remind him in this way that it is necessary to look closely at what is happening in his country. They have also allowed the buildup of this opposition to occur in Iran. This is another of the reasons. The Americans thought that this would not damage the shah's regime and at the same time would make him more compliant since there are more than 80,000 Americans in Iran--mainly representatives of various firms of the United States connected with oil--who also wanted to grab their money in even larger amounts and were prevented by the shah's regime. This number also includes 30,000 American military advisers who provided natural indignation among the people of Iran.

However, when these events were in progress, several forces have joined in--forces which like underground waters flowed to the surface. That is, the entire movement was suddenly headed by the Shi'ite priesthood, because it itself had suffered because of the land reform carried out by the shah at one time. It stood at the head of this movement--although it is actually a reactionary force and in opposition--but it headed the movement of the masses at this stage of events.

And now it has all grown into enormous demonstrations of protest against the existing regime, against punitive and cruel measures taken against the demonstrators and strikers. As the oilfield workers are on strike, the amount of oil has been reduced to a third of to what Iran used to produce.

Now the situation is practically out of the control of those who attempted to exercise various pressures. It is no accident that some American officials have said that they accuse the CIA of not predicting in time where these events may lead. Now the Americans are saying that they have contacts with the opposition leaders as well. As a compromise, a coalition government may be formed and the shah's power may be preserved at the same time. However, this is said in such a way that the White House sometimes has to deny what the White House itself has said. One of President Carter's statements was interpreted by journalists as saying that American circles consider that the shah's regime has already lost its power in Iran. This is not so. Next day there was a denial and it was said that the shah discussed this subject on the telephone with President Carter and used rather sharp words. The White House had to say that journalists incorrectly interpreted the American position. This is a well-known tactic.

It seems that the question for Americans--since they have contacts with the opposition--is not who rules Iran, but what will Iran be for the United States. Will it be the U.S. vanguard and ally in the new circumstances? And will it be the oil base for the United States as in the past? Who rules will be an issue to be discussed. This is how I see the U.S. position, if all the reasons produced to cover up this position are removed.

Our line in this question, dear comrades, was and remains that we are interested in Iran's development as an independent state, that the situation in the country should be really stable, and that this state could live without outside interference. This was clearly stated in an interview by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev with a PRAVDA correspondent. This has been and remains our line concerning Iran.

[Zorin] The problems we have discussed with you today, comrades, prove once more that 1978 was not a simple year as far as international politics are concerned. It was a difficult year. On the one hand, nobody can deny the unalterable fact that detente is deeply rooted and has the most real influence on the entire international situation as a whole [words indistinct] could have been fraught with much more dangerous consequences for mankind. On the other hand, the opponents of detente not only do not lay down their arms in their struggle against international detente; on the contrary, they use ever more refined and more cunning methods. In particular, they carry out not just an ideological struggle, but have transformed this ideological struggle into a psychological war. They slander the socialist system and structure; they try to create an atmosphere of lies and slander about real socialism. A great political art, a firmness in defense of principles, self-control, the ability not to give in to provocations, and the ability to see far ahead are necessary in this complicated and difficult struggle. Our party and its Leninist staff have a full measure of all these qualities. This is why Soviet people look to the future with a calm reassurance.

We now end today's discussion in Studio Nine. We wish you all the best. Until the next meeting here in our Studio Nine! Thank you.

PRAVDA WEIGHS FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS AS YEAR ENDS

ID041337Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "A Year of Successes for the Cause of Peace and Socialism"]

[Text] The year 1978 is on its way out. It will go down in history as a year of growth in our country's economic might, consolidation of its political authority and influence in the international arena, and strengthening cohesion among the forces of peace, progress and socialism. Pursuing a Leninist foreign policy, the Soviet Union is tirelessly implementing the program of further struggle for peace and international cooperation, for freedom and independence for the peoples, adopted by the 25th CPSU Congress.

An important direction in our party and state's foreign policy activity is the consolidation of friendship and all-round cooperation with the fraternal socialist countries. Major milestones along this road in the outgoing year were Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's friendly meetings in the Crimea with party and state leaders of the Warsaw Pact member-states' Political Consultative Committee. These afforded an opportunity to discuss urgent problems of the international situation, to analyze the present state of and prospects for mutual cooperation, and to outline joint action programs for the future.

The socialist community countries build their mutual relations on the principles of genuine equality, socialist internationalism and comradely mutual aid. Graphic confirmation of this in the current year was the unanimous admission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam into CEMA.

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The conclusion of a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was an event of enormous political importance. This treaty strengthens still further the bonds of fraternal solidarity between the Soviet and Vietnamese peoples.

Successfully solving the urgent international problems is inseparable from the struggle for peace, for an end to the ruinous and dangerous arms race, and for disarmament. "Important as one problem or another may be," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev has pointed out, "under modern conditions there is no more important task, affecting the future of every person on earth, than achieving real disarmament. The fundamental problem on the agenda of our lives at the present time is to end the arms race and insure progress toward reducing and ultimately eliminating the threat of thermonuclear catastrophe."

Today all honest people on this earth acknowledge that the land of the Soviets is in the vanguard of those striving to avert a new world conflagration. It is Soviet proposals, the USSR's constructive and realistic approach to questions of ending the arms race, and the principle of equal security which our country defends that form the basis of most of the agreements already reached and that are advancing current negotiations, including those on limiting strategic offensive arms.

The year 1978 saw major new Soviet initiatives aimed at normalizing the international situation. The complex of proposals advanced by the Soviet Union for a complete halt in the further quantitative or qualitative growth of the arms and armed forces of states with large military potentials, and the specific and realistic program of disarmament measures elaborated on this basis enabled the special session of the UN General Assembly to hold a constructive debate and to adopt useful recommendations. Soviet initiatives also keynoted the 33d session of the General Assembly.

Under modern conditions the problem of insuring peace and security is inextricably linked with the successes of the peoples' movement for national liberation, independence and the sovereign right to choose a path of development for themselves. The course of events in the Near East, southern Africa and certain other areas demonstrates how, where the forces of imperialism and reaction trample on the peoples' rights, centers of tension inevitably spring up; there is no bloodshed, and peace and tranquility are threatened. History's inexorable logic shows that, despite billions of dollars' worth of investment and mass weapons supplies, the racist regimes in Rhodesia and the Republic of South Africa, like terrorist dictatorships such as Somoza's in Nicaragua and Pinochet's in Chile, cannot crush the desire of millions for freedom and independence. It is also entirely natural that the forces for national and social liberation operating in the front lines of the struggle against imperialism and reaction turn for help to the socialist countries. The friendship and cooperation treaties concluded by the Soviet Union this year with Afghanistan and Ethiopia demonstrate the increasing solidarity of the anti-imperialist forces, and are an expression of our country's consistent and principled policy of supporting those fighting for freedom, independence and social progress.

The outgoing year has been marked by vigorous action in defence of peace on the part of the international public, political parties, trade unions and other mass organizations.

The mounting broad public movement against the neutron bomb compelled the governments of the United States and the other NATO countries to adopt a defensive stance. Prospects have developed for cooperation between the CPSU and social democratic parties on questions of ending the arms race and achieving disarmament.

While pointing out these successes we must now, however, be blind to the fact that international imperialist circles and reactionaries of every hue are not relaxing their subversive work against peace. To the accompaniment of spurious verbiage about a "Soviet threat," the militarists are elaborating new arms race programs. The methods of psychological warfare used against the socialist countries are becoming increasingly refined and insidious. Many obstacles on the path of consolidating peace are also being erected by the Peking hegemonists, who are openly siding with imperialism's most aggressive circles.

The forces of peace, progress and socialism are on the offensive. It could not be otherwise, since they have on their side historical truth and the fundamental interests of the vast majority of mankind.

TASS REPORTS UN INTEREST IN ERADICATING RACISM

LD031418Y Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] New York, January 3, TASS--TASS correspondent Valentin Vasilets reports: It will be ten years tomorrow since the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination came into force. The necessity of the speediest attainment of this objective has been confirmed at the recent U.N. General Assembly session. It is impossible to achieve genuine justice and peace not only in the African Continent, but all over the world until racism and its most cruel and cynical form--apartheid are eradicated, a TASS correspondent was told by Theo-Ben Gurirab, representative of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO). The question of Namibia has been in the focus of attention of the United Nations organisation in recent months. The discussions at the United Nations organisation have confirmed that the Western powers strive to preserve reactionary regimes in the south of Africa, said Ethiopian representative to the United Nations Organisation Mohammed Hamid Ibrahim. The Western powers are thus accomplices in the crimes of the racist regimes. Contrary to the decisions of the United Nations organisation, the USA and its NATO allies are broadening cooperation with the South African Republic. The US has not ratified until now the convention on the liquidation of all forms of racial discrimination. A total of 1,800 foreign companies, among them more than 500 American ones, are operating in South Africa. The USA has considerable capital investments in the economy of the South African Republic and Namibia. The Western powers annually grant 400 million dollars in loans to the South African Republic.

The international community is particularly concerned over the military cooperation of the NATO member-countries with the Pretoria regime. It is stressed in the U.N. circles that this aid enables the Pretoria regime to pursue a repressive policy against the "coloured" population of the South African Republic, to launch aggressive actions against the neighbour states.

The United Nations Organisation regards Zionism as a form of racism. The correctness of this evaluation has been confirmed by the recent actions of Israel, which accelerated the annexation of the captured Arab lands and expulsion of the Palestinian population from them.

PENTAGON'S LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR CONCEPT 'DANGEROUS'

LD041333Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Article from international military-political review by V. Vinogradov and L. Semeyko:
"Why a Clamor Has Been Raised"]

[Text] The time has passed when the Pentagon allowed itself to create and formulate uses for new strategic arms systems without concern for political consequences. With the consolidation of the process of detente, the establishment of Soviet-U.S. strategic parity, and the intensification of the peoples' struggle against the arms race, Washington must resort increasingly frequently to political maneuvering to substantiate the "correctness" of new rounds of this race and particularly dangerous changes in U.S. nuclear strategy. It is now deemed politically important to create the impression that the Pentagon is now reluctant, unlike before, to "bring down the chopper."

So now reports have appeared in the U.S. press to the effect that new trends have emerged in the United States in nuclear strategy. At the beginning of December the New York TIMES announced signs that the government is on the threshold of a "revolution" in nuclear strategy." The aim of this "revolution" is to "give the United States increased potential for waging a limited nuclear war in addition to its potential for large-scale nuclear warfare." From this it is concluded that it is "essential" to improve the new systems of mass destruction weapons already in existence. And so there is another propaganda ballyhoo about the possibility and permissibility of a "limited" nuclear war.

What is involved here? After all, it is well known that this question was not only raised long ago (at the beginning of the seventies) by the then U.S. President, but was later resolved in practice of Schlesinger, who held the post of defense secretary. Schlesinger formulated in detail the concept of a "limited strategic war" and announced its inclusion in U.S. military doctrine. But suddenly the question is rising again, and it is being alleged here that vacillations have emerged among the U.S. leadership.

Of course, it may be admitted that there are indeed vacillations since the "limited exchange" of strategic nuclear strikes in no way protects against rapid development into an unlimited exchange with all its unavoidable catastrophic consequences for the United States itself. And the cause of peace and international security as well as Soviet-U.S. relations would only gain if a sensible approach toward the determination of the country's military-political course were to prevail in Washington and if Washington were resolutely to abandon any versions of the use of nuclear weapons.

But to all appearances it is now a case only of an attempt to create in the world public--above all the U.S. public--the impression that the United States is making an in-depth analysis of the pro's and con's of a "limited nuclear war." Reports of the Washington administration's "vacillations" are designed to lull the public's vigilance and prepare it gradually for the definitive entrenchment of the concept of "limited strategic warfare." It is a case of the shopworn but subtle political tactic of pushing through dangerous decisions. This tactic has already been used for the neutron weapon, for instance. Then too much was said about the U.S. President's "vacillations" over making a final decision in view of the angry protests from the peoples of the world. But ultimately these "vacillations" proved to be the start of the creation of the basic components of a barbaric weapon, that is, the implementation of the previously outlined decision. To all appearances it is planned to do the same with the dangerous concept of a "limited strategic warfare" which is also arousing sharp criticism both in the United States and elsewhere.

Something else is also obvious. Under cover of disputes and "vacillations" over the expediency of creating an additional nuclear potential--"the potential for delivering accurate limited strikes" against Soviet military targets--unseemly attempts are being made to shift the responsibility for Washington's final decision on this question onto... the Soviet Union. Thus the New York TIMES reports allegations that "the Soviet Union's nuclear forces are geared to limited warfare" and that some Washington officials are now "upholding the strategy designed to make the U.S. forces ultimately more like the Soviet forces." Not a new method, let us say frankly. Throughout the postwar years the United States has been inventing the most diverse forms of the "Soviet threat" and referring to various "gulfs" between the two powers' military might to justify ever new U.S. dashes in the arms race.

The Soviet Union has frequently stated that it is not seeking military superiority, that our country is a resolute opponent of the concept of a "preemptive strike," and that the speedy conclusion of the Soviet-U.S. talks on a second strategic offensive arms limitation agreement would help lower the level of military antagonism in the world and strengthen the course toward detente, peace and international security. Our country is doing everything to prevent a nuclear catastrophe in any form--total or "limited."

It is impossible to disagree with the assessment given by the Washington POST of the "new" U.S. nuclear strategy: "These are all old songs and they have long been outdated from the viewpoint of modern armaments and present-day international relations." To this it should be added that the Pentagon's former strategic propositions do not become less dangerous because they are being presented in a new propaganda framework.

CARTER INFLATION PLAN LIKELY TO RESULT IN RECESSION

LD041633Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[T. Kolesnichenko article: "When There Is No End to the Spiral"]

[Text] George Washington has a bruise under his eye and a bandage on his forehead. This disrespectful attitude toward the first U.S. President is because he is depicted on the U.S. dollar. And the dollar today is a subject for caricaturists' irrepressible fantasies. So this cover of TIME magazine symbolizing the "battered" dollar is just one more example of the laughter through tears that is widespread here.

This is not surprising. If the value of the dollar in 1939 is taken as being 100 cents, the dollar's value is now only 21.2 cents. It has already been calculated that if inflation continues at the same rate as during the last 12 months, in 1988 the dollar will be worth less than 10 cents compared with its value in 1939.

Is it possible to halt inflation and price rises? How can increased unemployment and a new recession be avoided? Dozens of economists have recently written in the U.S. press on this score. Hundreds of pages have been written. President Carter has put forward a new plan for combatting inflation and has announced "emergency measures" to rescue the dollar, but there have been no real results. On the contrary, it emerges that each new step by the administration aimed at solving economic problems in practice pulls even tighter the knot of insoluble contradictions.

Thus, the President had not had time to deliver his television address to the nation (he himself called this address "one of the most important" during his time in the White House) before the dollar exchange rate plummeted in Europe and Japan. And on the New York Stock Exchange something incredible was happening. The Dow Jones index, that traditional "barometer" of the business activity of the biggest industrial corporations, dropped all at once by several dozen points.

Why did the stock markets react in this way to Carter's "new" plan? Primarily because it is in fact based on the old dogmas--which have repeatedly shown their ineffectiveness--about the so-called "voluntary" self-restraint of industrialists in their "cooperation" with workers and employees. After all, what was proposed? A limit on the growth of working people's wages, and a limit on price increases. If inflation exceeds 7 percent, workers are promised a tax reduction. And industrialists who hold down prices will be awarded incentives in the form of additional federal orders. As far as "penalties" are concerned, firms that do not adhere to self-restraint in the question of price rises will be denied government orders.

The appeal to the monopolies to "voluntarily" limit price increases sound especially unrealistic. After all, it is common knowledge that the pursuit of profits is the alpha and omega of big business. As far as the threats to "excommunicate" big firms from the state feeding trough are concerned, they frighten no one. Thousands of threads exist which link big business, and especially the monopolies of the military-industrial complex, with government orders, and an all-powerful lobby exists on Capitol Hill.

For those who live on what they earn the promised taxation "compensation" has a hollow ring to it. At best this could bring the average family \$100 a year, but the same family would be losing more than \$100 a month.

The White House's economic advisers, headed by Charles Schultze, are traveling around the country attempting to "sell" Carter's plan. The President's entourage hoped that it would succeed in winning over at least two or three major labor unions; then, it is said, the new plan would begin to "work". However, not a single association of workers was found which would support this plan. On the contrary, they regard it as a new encroachment on their vital interests. "The Carter plan", the well-known economist V. Perlo notes, "means the biggest reduction in real wages ever for the workers".

Under conditions of widespread mistrust toward the new anti-inflation plan, the dollar's catastrophic fall on the world market which occurred in the fall, and the panic on the New York Stock Exchange, the administration decided to take "dramatic measures" to rescue the dollar. This operation was prepared in secret to produce its effect. Journalists were unexpectedly called to the White House. It was announced that the discount rate had been increased to 9.5 percent (the biggest leap in the last 45 years) and that \$30 billion in foreign currency was being allocated to support the dollar. The United States would be sharply increasing the sale of gold. Additional credit restrictions would be introduced.

In the first few days the dollar exchange rate on the world money markets began to creep slowly upward. But the enthusiasm, as TIME magazine admits, quickly evaporated to give way to reality. [paragraph continues]

"The dollar, which had been knocked down, may have risen to its knees, but it has not gotten back onto its feet, and will it do so? After all, the dollar's most serious problem is the absence of European confidence in the Carter administration and its policy," writes BUSINESS WEEK. Indeed, only a little time has elapsed since the start of the "dollar rescue" operation and already reports are coming in that the value of the U.S. currency on world markets is falling again.

A vicious circle is emerging. The loss of confidence in the dollar intensifies inflation, and the growth of inflation leads in turn to an undermining of the dollar's positions. "This spiral", the weekly U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT observes, "is endless".

And although inflation remains officially the U.S. economy's No 1 enemy, it is not the only enemy. The administration's emergency measures to curb inflation must, in theory, "cool" the U.S. economy. But how can the "overheating" be removed and at the same time a recession and a new increase in unemployment be avoided? U.S. economists have no answer to this question. On the other hand there is a general presentiment that a recession with all its ensuing consequences is not far off, and each "anti-inflation" step brings it closer. A few months ago official Washington was publicly asserting that the U.S. economic growth rate would be maintained next year at 4-4.5 percent. At the beginning of November, Treasury Secretary M. Blumenthal started talking about 3 percent though "in his heart of hearts", the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR asserts, he agreed that it would be 2 percent. But since the dollar rescue operation, the possibility of a recession, many economists assert, has merely drawn nearer. It is the conclusion of the Brookings Institution, one of America's chief "brain centers", that "the President's new program and his actions to rescue the dollar will very soon lead to a recession". As is known, a recession means a new leap in unemployment. James Howell, chief economist and vice president of First National Bank of Boston, calculated that in the second quarter 2 million more persons will join the 6 million-strong army of unemployed Americans.

Certain "theoreticians" here believe that these people can be sacrificed to improve the U.S. economic climate, but few people believe that even if this is done the problem of inflation will become less acute. Despite all bourgeois economic theories, recent U.S. economic recessions have constantly been aggravated not only by increasing unemployment but also simultaneously by a growth of inflation.

Where is the way out? The administration is continuing to try to "sell" its plan. The White House is displaying its determination to reduce "federal spending", indeed it is reducing it, but the cuts affect primarily tens of thousands of civil servants who will soon become unemployed. The President is using his "veto" to block congressional bills which entail "additional spending", but again they do not affect Pentagon spending while directly limiting appropriations for social needs.

Alfred Kahn, Chairman of the Council for Wage and Price Stability, who is holding intensive talks with the labor unions, is working mainly on the problems of controlling the growth in wages. It is not impossible that the administration may soon introduce a wage and price freeze simultaneously. But even this measure, which economists deem to be extreme, will not be able to cure the "sick economy". After all, President Nixon resorted to a freeze. But what was the result? While wages were kept in the "freezer", prices increased.

The real means of combating inflation are, many Americans are convinced, a sharp reduction in military spending which runs into billions, a curbing of the monopolies' omnipotence, and the development of international trade without any discrimination. But can such steps be expected from ruling circles which "on the people's behalf" are pursuing a policy suited to big capital and the military-industrial complex? This is why America's economy is continuing to revolve in a vicious circle of insoluble contradictions.

HAIG TO CONTINUE AS 'COLD WAR HERALD' POLITICIAN

LD041846Y Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

["Old Tales in the New Year"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 4, TASS--TASS political commentator Yevgeniy Babenko writes:

"Soviet military menace"--this hackneyed and slanderous assertion was heard last year every time when the American General Alexander Haig took the floor in connection with this or that occasion. It has already resounded also in the new year, 1979.

In his very first new year press conference Haig again sounded his habitual alarm over the mythical "menace from the East", expressed the hope that the NATO alignment would go on increasing its military preparations, specifically on its southern wing in Europe, and also announced that new massive NATO manoeuvres would be held this winter.

At the same time the general said that beginning with June 30th he intended to resign from the post of supreme allied commander of the NATO armed forces in Europe. Should one regard Haig's last "warnings" as a testament to his successor?

By no means. Judging by everything, Haig, though leaving NATO, does not intend at all to abandon the role of a "cold war" herald. He is merely changing from his NATO uniform into the dress coat of an "Atlantic politician". Although Haig says that he now has no concrete plans for the future, he cautiously does not rule out the possibility of a political career, a prospect, according to the New York TIMES, which he cherishes.

Time will show in what concrete sphere General Haig will reappear in the future, but one thing is clear: If he embarks upon a political career with his present load of ill-intended inventions about the non-existent "Soviet military menace", this load will obviously bring him no dividends.

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DENG ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET THREAT 'GROUNDLESS'

OWO41659Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 0730 GMT 4 Jan 79 OW

[(Lovnov) commentary]

[Text] Let us talk about Deng Xiaoping's [Teng Hsiao-ping's] provocative attack on the Soviet Union on New Year's Day. These offensive remarks were found in his speech at a tea party held by the CCP in Peking on 1 January. This high-ranking anti-Soviet element in Zhongnanhai [Chungnanhai] has often repeated the trash that the Soviet Union threatens not only China but also the whole world. How can the Soviet Union, which has engaged in peaceful and creative labor for nearly 60 years and has never threatened anyone in the entire history of its existence, be such a country? In the past year, the CPSU and the Soviet Government have made every possible effort to curb the arms race that so seriously endangers peace and to (?reduce) the danger mankind faces from a thermonuclear war.

At the recent Moscow meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Union and other socialist community countries put forward new constructive proposals aimed at promoting detente and disarmament. In the declaration adopted at the meeting, they put forward eight proposals. One of the proposals is [words indistinct] in international relations not to use force or the threat of force and to firmly condemn wars of aggression. (?Another) proposal is that the five nuclear powers, namely, the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France and China, hold negotiations in the near future to destroy all types of nuclear weapons in their arsenals and use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes.

On the question of Soviet-China relations, the policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government is also principled and consistent; that is, a policy aimed at improving and restoring the neighborly relations between our two peoples. Other people may not know, but Deng Xiaoping clearly knows how many proposals by the Soviet Union aimed at improving Soviet-China relations are lying on the desks of China's leaders. The treaty on nonuse of force is one concrete example of these proposals. It precisely stipulates that the Soviet Union and China will not attack one another with armed forces equipped with any types of weapons, including conventional weapons, rockets and nuclear weapons. Deng Xiaoping also knows that the Supreme Soviet Presidium sent an appeal to the NPC Standing Committee of China in early 1978. This document very clearly reflects the Soviet Union's desire to normalize relations with China on the principle of peaceful coexistence, with consideration for mutual benefit and without any preconditions. The Supreme Soviet Presidium reiterates its desire to end the present abnormal state of Soviet-China relations.

Peking's leaders not only have rejected this positive new step taken by the Soviet Government but have started violent, despicable new attacks on Soviet foreign policy. After citing the abovementioned facts, can Deng Xiaoping still say that the Soviet Union is threatening China? I think all similar remarks attacking the Soviet Union are totally groundless.

PRC 'EXPANSIONIST CLAIMS' TO PARACEL, SPRATLY ISLANDS HIT

LDO41620Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Our Hanoi correspondent Leonid Krichevskiy reports:

Over the past few days Beijing [Peking] has come forward with fresh expansionist claims in relation to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]. This concerns two archipelagos in the South China Sea to the east of the Vietnamese coast: the archipelagos of the Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands.

The Beijing authorities are ignoring the fact that both archipelagos belong to Vietnam historically, and Beijing is declaring them to be Chinese territory. These claims by the Chinese authorities are a serious threat to both the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the SRV.

Why is it right now, after a long silence, that the Beijing authorities have raised the question of the islands? It becomes clear if one links this to Beijing's present course. Tension is mounting on Vietnam's northern border, and virtually not a day passes without armed clashes there. These are becoming more and more acute. Now the Beijing authorities are trying to complicate the situation on the sea routes leading to Vietnam. They apparently intend to use both archipelagos for their bases off the Vietnamese shores. Full control and protection would help them to continue trying to stage a sea blockage of the Vietnamese coastline which, naturally, would make the supply of vital cargo to Vietnam by sea more difficult. This becomes all the more serious if one remembers that the Beijing authorities have already cut off rail deliveries to Vietnam from other countries.

The SRV has given a resolute rebuff to Beijing's impudent territorial claims. In a statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman of the SRV, it is stressed that the Vietnamese people are ready to defend their territory on land and at sea.

The groundless claims to the Spratly and Paracel Islands provide further convincing confirmation of Beijing's expansionist course in relation to the SRV and of the aspiration to make the situation in this region more acute and to create additional difficulties for Socialist Vietnam.

PRC FOREIGN POLICY TO DESTROY PEACE, COOPERATION IN WORLD

LD041225Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Article by V. Korionov: "Their Real Plans"]

[Text] "The American news agency UPI has disseminated a report citing parts of a speech by Huang Hua, the Chinese minister for foreign affairs, at a closed conference of representatives from the armed forces and personnel from the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The American experts on Chinese affairs, in particular scholars from the Brookings Institution, consider this text to be authentic.

As the speech was given in "his own circle," the Chinese minister did not consider it necessary to conceal Peking's real plans. Formulating the "strategic" course of China in relations to the USSR and the United States, Huang Hua said: "It is necessary to win the United States over in order to concentrate all our efforts on the struggle with the main opponent." (i.e., the USSR) "It is necessary," the minister continued his candid revelations, "to cause a rift between the two superpowers in order to split them up..."

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Huang Hua's speech attracts attention because it once more repeats the secret strivings of the Peking rulers. Similar things have been expressed there before, such as the speech by Keng Piao, Chinese Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and vice premier of the State Council, to students of the diplomatic academy in Peking: "Stemming from the strategic point of view as a whole, if we can succeed in reducing Chinese-American contradictions then we can cooperate with one side with all our efforts...."

Speaking some days ago at a session of the National Peoples Congress Standing Committee, Huang Hua, characterizing the U.S.-PRC establishment of diplomatic relations, earnestly contended that this "would play a positive role in preserving peace."

Comparing the above statements of the representatives of the ruling Peking clique, one can once more become convinced of what Peking understands by "preserving peace." The destruction of the peaceful international cooperation between states and setting peoples against each other--such is in fact the foreign political course of the Maoists.

TASS CITES TANJUG ON CCP'S WANG CEDING POSTS TO OTHERS

LD031706Y Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Belgrade, January 3, TASS--The TANJUG agency, quoting informed sources in Beijing [Peking], reported that considerable changes were made in the apparatus of the CPC Central Committee which are of much significance for correlation of political forces in the Chinese leadership. The TANJUG report says: The main changes are in distribution of duties among party leaders. It became known from reliable sources that Deputy Chairman of the CPC Central Committee Wang Dongxing [Wang Tung-hsing] ceded to other figures a number of his posts, specifically the post of the head of the chancellery of the CPC Central Committee. Wang Dongxing was, apparently, relieved of a number of other concrete duties, including that of chief of the Security Committee at the CPC Central Committee and of leader of special security units.

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E A S T E U R O P E

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CPSU GREETES SED ON PARTY ANNIVERSARY

LD041443Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To the Sed Central Committee:

Dear comrades:

On behalf of the CPSU and the entire Soviet people we send you, all communists and the people of the GDR wholehearted greetings and warm congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Germany.

The birth of the Communist Party of Germany was prepared by the entire course of the German proletariat's class struggle. It was a turning point in the development of the German workers movement and a decisive precondition for the development of the struggle against class oppression and for the German working people and for peace and democracy. History will not forget the contribution made to this great cause by the most eminent German revolutionaries--Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg and Ernst Thaelmann.

The German communists' path was hard. The Communist Party of Germany struggled selflessly under very harsh conditions of underground operation and fascist terror and strengthened and developed as the revolutionary vanguard of the German proletariat. In the struggle against German imperialism and fascism the German communists showed themselves to be unbending fighters for the working people's interests, not sparing even their lives in this struggle.

When the German people's liberation from fascism finally came, the communists were the pioneers, or, as people began to call them with respect, the activists of the first hour, in the implementation of antifascist-democratic changes in East Germany. Ardent advocates of overcoming the pernicious division of the German proletariat, they were the initiators of the unification of the Communist Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of Germany into a single Marxist-Leninist party--the SED.

The Communist Party of Germany's loyalty to proletarian internationalism and the cause of Great October and its friendship with the CPSU and the Soviet people permeate its entire history. This remarkable feature of the German Communist-Thaelmannites has become a fundamental principle of the SED's entire policy.

Absorbing all the best elements of the German revolutionary workers movement, relying on its combat traditions and skillfully applying under the GDR's specific historical conditions the experience of the CPSU and the other fraternal parties, the SED has headed and rallied the working class and all its country's working people around itself and is confidently leading them along the path of building a new society.

As an active detachment of the international communist and workers movement, the SED consistently steers a course toward the all-round consolidation of the world socialist system and resolutely advocates the unity and cohesiveness of the ranks of the communists and all the world's progressive and peace-loving forces in the interests of peace and social progress.

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The GDR people are working with great enthusiasm to fulfill the tasks set by the Ninth SED Congress for the further formation of a developed socialist society and are preparing to give a fitting welcome to a notable jubilee--the 30th anniversary of the formation of the German worker and peasant state.

We wish the communists and all working people of the GDR new victories and achievements on the glorious path of building developed socialism.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee.

SIGNING OF 1979 TRADE PROTOCOL WITH POLAND REPORTED

LDO41117Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--A protocol on commodity turnover between the USSR and Poland in 1979 was signed 22 December as the result of talks between government delegations from the Soviet Union and Poland. It provides for a further considerable increase in the volumes of reciprocal deliveries of commodities. In 1979 commodity turnover between the USSR and Poland will total R7.6 billion and increase more than 9 percent compared with 1978.

The Soviet Union will export to Poland oil, natural gas, ferrous metallurgy products, timber, cotton, tractors, agricultural machinery, metalcutting machine tools, motor vehicles and other types of machinery and equipment. In 1979 Poland will in turn supply the USSR with coal, sulfur, coke, zinc, seagoing ships, railroad rolling stock, metalcutting machine tools, forging and pressing equipment and also complete sets of equipment for plants producing sulfuric acid and wood fiberboard. It is also planned to increase the volume of reciprocal deliveries of consumer goods and to extend their range.

The protocol was signed by M.R. Kuzmin, first deputy minister of foreign trade, and J. Olszewski, Polish minister of foreign trade and maritime economy.

CPSU DEPARTMENT CHIEFS VISIT POLAND, CSSR

LDO41335Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] A group of CPSU party workers headed by Ye.M. Tyazhelnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department, was in the Polish People's Republic from 19 through 23 December at the invitation of the PZPR Central Committee. The delegation familiarized itself with the PZPR's experience in the sphere of mass political and ideological education work.

During their stay in Poland the Soviet comrades were received by J. Lukaszewicz, candidate member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee.

N.M. Pegov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief of a CPSU Central Committee Department was in the CSSR from 17 through 23 December at the invitation of the CPCZ Central Committee. He traveled there to exchange experience of party work. He had meetings and conversations in the CPCZ Central Committee International Policy Section, the CSSR Foreign Ministry, the West Bohemian Kraj Committee of the CPCZ and the Karlovy Vary Regional Committee of the CPCZ. N.M. Pegov was received by V. Bilak, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee.

WEST'S PROBLEMS IN LIGHT OF GUADELOUPE SUMMIT VIEWED

LD041908Y Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The leaders of four Western powers, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Britain, are to meet on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. What questions are they to discuss? Our Washington correspondent Yuriy Soltan has sent this dispatch.

Officials in Washington are stressing the informal nature of the meeting and even say there may be no official communique issued at the end. Observers take these warnings as a sign of mounting contradictions among the participants and of their mutual distrust. They say the leaders of the Western world are incapable of producing any effective and coordinated decisions to remedy the economic situation. The problems on the agenda of the conference are not new. They include unemployment--18 million people in 24 countries remain without a job--inflation, the weakness of the dollar and the threat of another recession which may come as a result.

Many observers say the economy of the Western world reminds of a ship in distress, with every member of the crew trying to save himself alone. At the end of last year, for example, the Common Market countries decided to set up their own monetary system which would protect them from the harmful changes in the value of the dollar, and other protective measures are being taken which are primarily directed against U.S. domination.

These independent moves of its West European partners go against the grain with Washington officials. There is therefore, every reason to expect that President Carter will use the conference to restore order in the ranks of the U.S. allies, so to speak. The meeting only includes the chosen few, and no invitations were issued to Canada, Italy or to Japan, which is the main economic rival of the United States and of Western Europe. This gives grounds to expect that an attempt will be made to create yet another grouping within the Western world which would resist the pressure of Japanese commodities and which would dictate its terms to the weaker partners.

The four-power conference will also discuss other problems, including East-West relations, military spending, the neutron bomb and China. Chances of agreement on any of these problems look really small. (?The other day a) Washington STAR observer said differences between the participants of the conference do not involve either their principles or objectives but only means of reaching them. Those differences nevertheless continue to grow.

RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL IN LAST 4 YEARS REVIEWED

LD042355Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1900 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Four years ago, in January 1975, Portuguese Foreign Minister Mario Soares paid an official visit to the USSR. That was the first visit to our country by a Portuguese foreign minister. As the joint communique underlined, favorable possibilities for the development of multilateral relations between the two countries emerged in the wake of the overthrow of the fascist dictatorship in Portugal.

The Portuguese foreign minister met and held talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. Speaking at the lunch given in honor of his Portuguese counterpart, Andrey Gromyko said that our country is in favor of broadening and strengthening of relations between the USSR and Portugal, in the interest of the peoples of both countries, and of a consolidation of peace and security in Europe and in the whole world. The Soviet minister pointed out that all countries, both large and small, should contribute to such a noble and important task as the strengthening of peace, and that in this connection many efforts could be made by both countries.

From the very beginning, the USSR has supported democratic Portugal in the world arena, both in the United Nations and in other international organizations, which contributed to the end of Portugal's isolation. The decolonization policy consistently pursued by the new Portuguese leadership was received with particular satisfaction in our country. Our country showed understanding toward the aspirations of the leaders of the new Portugal to establish and develop mutual ties. It should be said that such ties began in June 1974, following the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, and when the first Portuguese government delegation led by Minister of State Alvaro Cunhal arrived in the USSR. Since then, an agreement on the development of advantageous mutual cooperation in various spheres has come into force.

In late 1974 relations between the USSR and Portugal acquired a juridical [word indistinct] as the intergovernmental agreements on foreign trade, air traffic and maritime navigation then concluded have shown. Links between our two countries have thus gained in substance. It should be said that they were developing rather successfully, and both the USSR and Portugal were contributing to it. Our economic and cultural relations were successfully developing. In 1974, for instance, trade between the USSR and Portugal stood at only \$10 million. In 1977, however, it reached \$160 million. An exchange of specialists in various spheres became a regular feature. The peoples of our two countries had the opportunity to know each other better. Exhibitions, cultural initiatives and, in particular, USSR Day in Portugal and Portugal Days in the USSR have contributed to this.

Since the visit paid to the USSR by the Portuguese foreign minister--which became an important landmark in the broadening of mutual and advantageous cooperation--4 years have elapsed. Some progress has been registered in this sphere of late, although it has not perhaps been as considerable as those who are sincerely interested in a closer rapprochement between our countries would have wished.

This, however, is not difficult to explain. In Portugal there are still forces which do not like such a rapprochement, and they are doing their utmost to prevent it. The USSR, for its part, is always willing to further develop relations between the two states, which corresponds to the interests of both the Portuguese and the Soviet peoples.

PRAVDA NOTES 'RIGHTWARD TURN' IN PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT

LD252230Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1900 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Boris Kotov commentary: "A Rightward Turn", published in 25 December edition of PRAVDA]

[Text] The new Mota Pinto government is officially nonpartisan, writes the PRAVDA Lisbon correspondent Boris Kotov, but it is no secret that both the prime minister and the other Cabinet members are closely connected with the country's main bourgeois parties, in particular with the Social Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Center Party. As the Portuguese press points out many of them held important posts under the fascist regime.

The government's program itself serves as proof of the rightward turn taken by the Portuguese administration, Boris Kotov continues. In essence the program is aimed at the speedy restoration of the positions held by the private, that is to say capitalist, sector in the economy in an offensive against the people's revolutionary gains.

How has it come about that in no more than a year the Portuguese Government should have changed from a homogeneous Socialist Party administration to a no less homogeneous Cabinet of capitalists and landowners, the commentator asks further.

The explanation to this metamorphosis can be found in the policy of the Socialist Party itself. It is the logical result of the line pursued by the rightwing leadership of the Socialist Party in aiming to solve the country's difficulties by relying on the support of national and international monopolist capital. It is the result of their stubborn refusal to cooperate with the country's leftwing forces--and above all with the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP].

During the lengthy government crisis that began in July of this year the rightwing leadership of the Socialist Party did its utmost to steer clear of office. The press underlines that most likely it decided to go through a rest cure in opposition in a bid to contain the process of its loss of influence among the masses. The fear of an early election also explains the capitulating neutrality of the Socialist Party in the recent Assembly of the Republic vote on a communist motion condemning the government program.

PRAVDA concludes: Now the socialists are opening wide the doors to the rightwing political parties which not only are in no position to solve the country's problems but indeed--as stressed in the PCP's motion--can do nothing but worsen them.

ECONOMIC, POLITICAL FRUITS OF SOVIET-ITALIAN TRADE LAUDED

LD041651Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent G. Zafesov article: "To Mutual Advantage"]

[Excerpts] Venice-Rome, December--Italy has become one of the Soviet Union's major business partners, ranking third in the USSR's trade with West European countries after the FRG and Finland. It is appropriate to note that Italian business circles were among the first in the West to realistically assess the advantages of trade, economic and technical cooperation with socialist states. The course of the development and the present level of relations achieved between the USSR and Italy confirm the correctness and viability of this approach.

The two countries' governments attach great significance to the successful development of mutual economic relations. This is expressed in the intergovernmental agreement on the development of economic, industrial and technical cooperation over a 10-year period, signed in July 1974. In accordance with the agreement the sides pledged to continue to make efforts to promote the development and strengthening of business ties, which are a factor in progress. With a view to more effective practical implementation of this agreement, a long-term program for deepening economic and industrial cooperation between the USSR and Italy was signed, which provides for the use of both countries' raw material and energy resources, technology, equipment and consumer goods in their mutual interests.

Also among the pioneers in the sphere of concluding long-term, large-scale agreements with the USSR is the Italian National Hydrocarbons Agency. In recent years such long-term agreements have become a good tradition, confirmed substantially on the Italian side by such major concerns and associations as Montedison, Snia-Viscosa, Finsider and others.

Naturally, there are also circles in Italy which would like to retard the development of Soviet-Italian economic cooperation. From time to time materials which are clearly inspired appear in the press where, attacking large-scale deals on a barter basis, attempts are made to frighten business circles and the public by saying that products manufactured at enterprises created with Italy's participation and imported from the USSR in part-payment for technical cooperation could allegedly have a negative effect on the Italian economy and have undesirable consequences.

We spoke of this with Pasquale Landolfi, one of the directors of Montedison, who is responsible for the concern's foreign trade ties. We know, Landolfi said, that the output of enterprises constructed in the USSR with Italian assistance is intended above all to meet domestic demand. It is known that the Soviet partners, particularly in the sphere of the chemicals industry, always strive for the best possible use of such deals in both sides' interests. The USSR chemical industry is not competing but cooperating with us. Barter agreements are a very valuable form of cooperation, which must be promoted still further. Economic ties, he said in conclusion, are constantly evolving, and new forms based on joint planning open up further potentials for the fullest exploitation of our cooperation.

The quest for new forms and methods of extending economic relations is being pursued constantly by both sides. Industrial cooperation and specialization between enterprises speak for themselves with increasing certainty. Thus, nine models of Soviet-produced metal-cutting machine tools use a numerical program control panel manufactured by Olivetti. The Actex firm equips Soviet pneumatic rapier [pnevmorapirnye] looms with attachments. Much more is being done. This promising form of cooperation must be still further expanded and improved.

Such Italian companies as, for instance, Stanitaliana, which is involved in selling Soviet machine tools and forge and press equipment and purchasing Italian machine-building products, are beginning to play an increasing role in the two countries' mutual relations. Russlegno, which trades in Soviet forestry, paper and pulp goods, Nafta (It.), which is engaged in importing Soviet petroleum products into Italy, and other companies are functioning successfully.

Of course, there are still considerable difficulties in the way of Soviet-Italian business cooperation, such as the existence of protectionist barriers in Italy which restrict the import of ferrous metals and textile and sewn goods industry products, and this has an undoubted negative effect on exports of corresponding Soviet goods to the Italian market. There is a number of quantitative and other restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union.

In 1977 USSR exports of metal-cutting machine tools, forge and press equipment, tractors, motor vehicles, electric loaders, bearings, instruments, devices, television tubes and various other industrial finished goods totaled, in monetary terms, about R20 million; that is, about 2 percent of total exports. However, opportunities for increasing deliveries of these goods could be considerable.

Of course, difficulties occur and could continue to do so, but this in no way lessens the significance and role of Soviet-Italian relations, in whose further strengthening and development both countries have an interest. Important and favorable factors in this are Italy's support of the policy of relaxation of international tension and increasing mutual understanding and trust between the two states. Trade and economic cooperation in turn helps to deepen and promote progress in political relations. Such processes supplement each other.

This is in accordance with the interests not only of the two countries' peoples but of the European peoples as a whole, where realism, the desire for cooperation, good partnership and mutual trust, and responsibility for the continent's destiny are taking an increasingly firm root. And this course is finding more and more supporters every day.

USSR DEPOSITS RATIFIED FISHERIES AGREEMENT

LD292254Y Moscow TASS in English 2023 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 29, TASS--On December 27, 1978, the document on the adoption by the USSR Government of the Convention on Multilateral Cooperation in the Field of Fisheries in the North-Western Atlantic of October 24, 1978, has been deposited with the Government of Canada for keeping.

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U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
M I D D L E E A S T & N O R T H A F R I C A

F 1

SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO COMMENT ON SITUATION IN IRAN

Shah Appoints Bakhtiar Prime Minister

LD041649Y Moscow TASS in English 1633 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, January 4, TASS--Today the shah of Iran appointed Shahpur Bakhtiar, the leader of the "Iran" party, as the country's new prime minister, Teheran Radio reported.

Bakhtiar's Press Conference

LD041630Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vyacheslav Lavrentyev]

[Excerpt] According to news agencies' reports from Tehran, Bakhtiar, in his capacity as head of the civil government he is forming, is preparing to submit the members of the new cabinet to the shah of Iran.

Speaking at his first press conference, Bakhtiar stated that as soon as the new cabinet receives a vote of confidence in Parliament, all political prisoners will be released from the prisons. The future prime minister also promised to dissolve SAVAK, which is tainted by its repressions and cooperation with U.S. intelligence services. Bakhtiar also said it has been proposed to leave the SAVAK information service unchanged.

The future prime minister also spoke about his intention to restore freedom of the press and to gradually lift martial law. Political parties' activity will be permitted in Iran, according to Bakhtiar. However, in reply to a question about legalization of the Communist Party, he came out favoring retention of the ban on its activity, stressing that an obligatory condition for the legalization of parties is the religious conviction of their members.

Many people in Iran at the moment have adopted a "wait and see" position with regard to the new cabinet, having obviously decided to see how far Bakhtiar's promises are confirmed by deeds. Javad Sa'id, speaker of the Majlis, has stated that in the event of Bakhtiar's coming to power, all the activity of his government will be monitored by the assembly. A number of opposition religious organizations have declared their determination to boycott the activity of the new government, even if it gets a vote of confidence.

Possible Departure of Shah

LD041854Y Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Bakhtiar has let it be known that, in private conversations with him, the shah spoke of his plans to take a rest trip abroad. The shah also said he will appoint a regency council to govern the country in his absence.

These reports, however, again have been denied by official representatives of the shah. It is also reported that the United States has changed its stand on this matter and is now advising the shah to leave the country, at least for awhile until a civilian government is formed that can deal with the riots.

But foreign correspondents' reports from Tehran say the top army leadership is against the shah leaving the country at this stage. The generals feel his departure may weaken discipline in the forces and make them unfit to keep fighting the demonstrators. The military are also afraid that they will lose control over the military budget.

Other reports speak of strong rumors circulating in foreign diplomatic circles in the Iranian capital the past few days. These rumors hint at the possibility of a military coup because of the uncertain nature of Bakhtiar's efforts to form a civilian cabinet. Observers also do not exclude the possibility of foreign military intervention. They feel the shah has no choice but to rule with the help of the army in one form or another.

General Oveysi, chief of the Tehran military administration, is mentioned as the future strongman.

Petrusenko Comments

LD050943Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Vitaliy Petrusenko commentary: "Tension Not Lessening"]

[Text] The resignation of Iran's military government, which was headed by General Azhari, has not led to a lessening of tension in the country. Striking oilfield workers are refusing to return to work until troops leave the oil-producing regions. Tehran airport employees are boycotting American and Israeli airlines. In a number of cities troops and police have resorted to mass firing on demonstrators. The politician Sh. Bakhtiar is making new efforts to form a civilian government. Foreign news agencies report that he hopes to be successful either this week or at the latest next week. Meanwhile reports are coming in about the shah's readiness to leave the country for a while for a "holiday," if the "situation permits." OBSERVERS ASSESS THIS DECISION BY THE SHAH AS A MAJOR CONCESSION BY THE COUNTRY'S RULING GROUPING TO THE PEOPLE'S MASSES. It is known that many religious demonstrations in Iran, particularly recently, have turned into political protests against the existing regime. However, many newspaper commentators doubt whether the measures being adopted will calm the population and normalize the situation. IN THIS CONNECTION THEY DRAW ATTENTION TO THE SHARPLY ANTI-AMERICAN ORIENTATION OF MANY DEMONSTRATIONS. THIS IS HARDLY LIKELY TO LESSEN WHILE ABOUT 40,000 AMERICANS ARE IN IRAN AND ARE TRYING TO SAVE THEIR POSITIONS IN THE COUNTRY BY MEANS OF BACKSTAGE MANEUVERS.

Dr Sh. Bakhtiar, IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov reports from Tehran, formerly a minister in the Mossadeq government and now leader of the Iran Party, which forms part of the National Front, has agreed to form a government against the wishes of the opposition National Front and religious leaders. As is known, they are opposed to any politician who seeks to form a coalition government without demanding the shah's removal from power. The National Front has dissociated itself from Doctor Bakhtiar and expelled him from its ranks.

Doctor Sh. Bakhtiar has appealed to the nation on radio and television, calling on all Iranians to "stop activity leading to destruction or disorders for the time being."

Alarm signals about continuing clashes are still coming in from the provinces. The whole country was shaken by a report from Mashhad, where additional contingents of troops and tanks were used to "impose order." According to official figures, 106 people were killed in Mashhad, and more than 600 according to unofficial figures.

Moscow Stresses Anti-American Demonstrations

LD041428Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[IZVESTIYA observer Nikolay Khokhlov's commentary on events in Iran]

[Excerpt] Reports from Iran testify that anti-American feelings have grown appreciably in the country. This is a new manifestation of the Iranian people's political struggle for its rights, the preservation of Iran's sovereignty and the noninterference of the imperialist powers in the country's internal affairs--a new manifestation, but not an unexpected one, for the very logic of events and the very nature of Iranian-U.S. relations predetermined this turn in the demands of the Iranian population, which has now risen up.

As is known, U.S. military-political strategy has always assigned a particular place to Iran in the implementation of its global policy of diktat. This course has been bolstered by unprecedentedly large deals for the sale of U.S. arms to Iran which, over the past 8 years, have reached \$20 billion. Let us also recall that U.S. advisers are working for the Iranian Army and that large sums of U.S. capital have been pumped into many of Iran's industries, not to mention the oil industry.

It would appear that Iran is really a firm bastion of the United States in that part of the world. However, the events in Iran have caused substantial modifications to be made in the designs of U.S. and Iranian strategists. Now, even the U.S. press is concentrating its main attention on the growth of anti-American feelings, citing the demands of the demonstrators and striking workers and employees, such as "Yankees Get Out of Iran." Anti-American demonstrations have been held over the past few days in Tehran, Reza'iyeh, Shahpur, Hamadan, Kerman and other Iranian towns. A U.S. administrator at the oilfields was killed in the town of Ahvaz, and demonstrators set fire to the U.S.-Iranian cultural center's building in Shiraz.

The pamphlets that have appeared in recent days in the Iranian capital are highly indicative of the present mood. They speak frankly of the fact that the present regime enjoys the support and patronage of the U.S. administration, which shares responsibility for the mass repressions, killings and sufferings of the Iranian people.

Foreign news agencies report that the U.S. colony in Iran has been seized by panic. More than 10,000 U.S. citizens have left the country, but no less than 35,000 Americans still remain. What should not be ruled out is that the U.S. administration will resort to some kind of interference in Iran's internal affairs on the threadbare and frequently (unproved) pretext of the so-called rescue of fellow citizens. Such a supposition follows from a New York TIMES report that U.S. agencies are--to quote from the paper--working out a sizable number [poryadochnoye chislo] of contingency plans. Evidently, this sizable number of plans also includes U.S. intentions to support, in the event of it happening, a military coup, which would play into the hands of the United States and help it to preserve its influence in Iran.

The Iranian people come out against any outside interference, and the anti-American trend in events serves as a kind of warning that the old imperialist gunboat tactics are rejected by fighting Iran.

U.S. 'Interference, Pressure'

LDO42018Y Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

["Interference--Real and Imaginary"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 4, TASS--TASS commentator Leonid Ponomarev writes:

The events in Iran clearly demonstrate how deep are the anti-American sentiments caused by the United States' lasting and gross interference in the internal affairs of Iran. The broad scope of anti-American sentiments is recognized by the American press itself, with the press of the whole world writing about it.

American interference in Iranian affairs is going on for many years now. Though no one is threatening Iran, the U.S. is known to have imposed on that country a huge arms build-up program at the total cost of 18 billion dollars, and this is far beyond the defence needs of that country.

The tremendous military spending imposed on Iran by Washington resulted in considerable assets being reflected from social-economic programmes necessary for meeting the country's urgent needs. Along with arms deliveries, the U.S. sent to Iran many thousands of servicemen and so-called technical specialists. American monopolies have been long operating in Iran as if at home, having grabbed for themselves key branches of the economy, particularly the extraction and distribution of Iranian oil.

During the current events in Iran the U.S. State Department has given assurances that the United States had no intention to build up its military might in the area of the Persian Gulf or to send warships there. Nevertheless, three American naval ships have already entered the waters of the gulf and other ships are on their way to it.

Under the pretext of "concern for the security" of Americans in Iran quite a number of military transport planes have been sent to Iran. Along with its military pressure, the U.S. has stepped up of late pressure on various groupings, both in the government and in the oppositionary camps of Iran.

Washington is now hastily drawing up a script for Iran's future political life, openly discussing what kind of government it should have, what groups, parties and personalities should enter the new government. Also discussed is the possibility of an extreme right-wing military coup.

The New York TIMES reports today that U.S. Ambassador in Iran William Sullivan has been asking instructions on what to do with the shah of Iran: Whether the shah should leave Iran now, or stay in Tehran for the time being. In other words, the American ambassador is clearing with Washington the question of who exercises power in Iran.

How can such gross interference in internal affairs fail to spark off anti-American sentiments among the Iranians?

In an attempt to distract attention from their interference in that country's internal affairs, definite circles in the United States are having recourse to old hackneyed slanders against the Soviet Union. They are trying to lay the blame at the door of the USSR, alleging that the latter is fomenting anti-American sentiments in Iran.

But facts indicate to the contrary. As is pointed out in well-informed circles, U.S. special services having a large ramified ring of agents in Iran are reinforced with new contingents of agents. These services are trying to kindle anti-Soviet feelings in Iran, to instigate all sorts of provocative actions against Soviet people and specialists. And now they are trying to use absurd fabrications about the Soviet Union's stand as a smokescreen for their own sordid actions.

U.S. Behavior 'Anti-Iranian'

LDO41452Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "Grave Behavior by the United States in the Arabian Gulf"]

[Text] News agencies have reported that the United States is rushing its naval units toward the Iranian shores in a clear attempt to influence the events in this country by a display of force. A Pentagon representative has confirmed that three naval ships of the U.S. fleet in the Middle East have entered the gulf region. Thus, U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs is taking on a graver aspect, despite Iranian protests against this behavior. This is occurring in spite of U.S. specialists' assessment that the current events in Iran are the result of internal dissatisfaction, according to the New York TIMES.

However, what the specialists [word indistinct] are saying (?is one thing) and what the official propaganda is saying is something else. This propaganda seeks to conceal the real aims and actual consequences of U.S. behavior directed at the (?core) of the Iranian people and their national aspirations. The cornerstone of the behavior is U.S. imperialistic interests which conflict with the interests of the other peoples in the gulf region and in the whole Middle East region.

What is involved here is U.S. defense of U.S. and Western monopoly interests which are making fabulous profits from Iran's oil and the oil of other countries in the gulf region.

What is also involved here is the strategic military positions which the United States continues to hold on to in a number of the countries in the region.

Also involved is maintaining those regimes whose policies please the United States and (?concern) for these regimes is just one of the reasons behind the events taking place in Iran.

A long time before these events occurred in Iran, President Carter issued a secret order to set up the so-called mobile forces for their dispatch to the gulf region and the Middle East if a situation unfavorable for the United States arose. Now, as the New York TIMES writes, Pentagon officials believe in the need to strengthen the role of the U.S. Armed Forces in this region.

Naturally, all these matters were bound to draw the attention of Arab public opinion and the press. The behavior of the United States in the gulf is of an anti-Iranian and anti-Arab nature. It is directed first of all against those Iranian forces in solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people and all the Arab peoples against the Israeli aggressor. Second, it aims at crushing any tendencies toward liberation in the whole region, or at best to place those forces which do not please the present U.S. administration at the mercy of U.S. guns. Here, the recent threats from Washington against the Arab oil exporting countries in connection with the increasing of oil prices take on a special significance.

[Moscow in Persian to Iran at 1630 GMT on 4 January reports: The situation in Iran remains tense. The comings and goings of U.S. naval ships in the vicinity of Iranian shores have increasingly intensified anti-U.S. demonstrations, which have assumed vast dimensions in recent days. The participants in yesterday's demonstrations, which took place in Tehran, Mashhad and other cities, forcefully condemned the United States for interfering in Iran's internal affairs. In view of the protests by the country's inhabitants, U.S. experts are advising the use of the army to crush opposition to the regime and smash the strikes.

[It was announced in Tehran today that the chairmanship of the new cabinet would be entrusted to Shahpur Bakhtiar.

[James Schlesinger, U.S. energy secretary, hinted that, if oil extraction in Iran fails to reach its normal level by the summer, the United States might resort to emergency measures in order to meet its oil requirements. At a Washington press conference James Schlesinger did not state what measures the United States was determined to carry out, but merely said that the United States is facing definite problems due to the halt in imports of liquid fuel from Iran. Dwelling upon the issue of Iranian oil deliveries to Israel, Schlesinger gave assurance that the United States is ready to make up Israel's losses. The United States, Israel and also the Republic of South Africa, until the beginning of recent events in Iran, were the major consumers of Iranian oil.]

Soviet Involvement Denied

LD041732Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1607 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

["Who Is Interfering in Iran's Internal Affairs?"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--TASS commentator Sergey Bulantsev writes:

As Iran's internal crisis deepens, the Western press is increasingly publishing lies whose authors are endeavoring to distort the USSR's position with regard to Iranian events. Bourgeois propaganda attempts to present matters as though the Soviet Union and other countries bordering Iran are interfering in internal events in Iran. In particular, the Paris LE FIGARO has put into circulation a provocative fabrication alleging that "thousands of Afghan provocateurs, trained in Moscow, are taking part in the disorders in Tehran.

The real state of affairs behind such fabrications is apparent. It is well known that the Soviet Union has not interfered and does not intend to interfere in Iran's internal affairs; at the same time it will not permit imperialist intervention.

As for the forces which are striving on various pretexts "to influence" issues which only the Iranian people have the right to resolve, they are certainly not in the Soviet Union.

According to foreign press reports, three U.S. naval warships are already in the Persian Gulf in the immediate vicinity of Iran and several more U.S. ships are also heading for Iran's shores--despite recent assurances by the State Department that the U.S. Government is not planning such actions. The New York TIMES appraises such actions as "the most effective means of showing force." It is clear from material in the same newspaper that an attempt is being made in Washington to resolve some purely internal Iranian problems. In particular, Sullivan, the U.S. ambassador, is asking the White House about what is to happen to the shah of Iran: Should the shah leave Iran right now for abroad, or should he remain in Tehran for the present.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

According to the Western press, Washington is discussing the possibility of an extreme rightwing military coup. At the same time a considerable number of U.S. military transport aircraft have been sent to Iran on the pretext of concern for the safety of Americans there. And just a few days ago, according to the American press, new groups of U.S. "specialists" who "are needed for guard duties" were sent to Iran. Then it will become necessary to guard the guards. This how the interference is being escalated in accordance with a scheme formulated long ago, and this is only deepening the difficulties being experienced by Iran.

For the objective observer, these facts (and the list of them could have been extended) suffice to answer the question of who is interfering in Iran's internal affairs.

Moscow Persian on Bakhtiar, U.S.

LD041918Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In Tehran and a great many other Iranian cities massive demonstrations are being held as a sign of protest against the existing regime and U.S. interference in the country's affairs. According to agency reports, these demonstrations in effect are being held throughout Iran. In Mashhad particularly a critical situation can be seen. The past few days armed clashes have taken place between the opposition to the regime and the armed forces. In Mashhad, as in other Iranian cities, a large number of people have been killed or wounded.

The National Consultative Assembly and the Senate of Iran yesterday endorsed and confirmed the nomination of Shahpur Bakhtiar for the post of prime minister. Describing his characteristics, the British DAILY TELEGRAPH wrote: As far as we know, Shahpur Bakhtiar enjoys the backing of the United States.

In an overt effort to enhance the political prestige of his forthcoming cabinet, Shahpur Bakhtiar said that he intends to limit the tasks of the secret police, SAVAK, to bring back the freedom of the press and gradually to abolish martial law administration in the country.

The National Front, Iran's main political force, and other opposition and religious organizations stated that they would boycott the new cabinet's activities.

(?TASS) reports that in Western diplomatic quarters in Tehran it has been rumored during the past few days that, since Shahpur Bakhtiar's efforts to set up a civilian government are politically weak, a military coup d'etat is becoming a possibility.

The United States is constantly attempting to change the course of events in Iran. For instance, in order to demonstrate its power, the United States is deploying its naval warships close to the country's shores. A Pentagon spokesman confirmed that a U.S. Navy Middle East force consisting of three ships has entered the Persian Gulf. He also confirmed that another four ships from the U.S. 7th Fleet are sailing in the Indian Ocean.

Moscow papers note that neither the Iranian nation nor other countries can remain indifferent toward U.S. interference in Iran's internal affairs and toward the attempt to carry out a policy of (?strength). In order to safeguard its military, strategic and economic interests, Washington is prepared to ignore the sovereign rights of 35 million Iranians.

The course adopted by the United States in connection with events in Iran demonstrates its hypocrisy and duplicity in the question of human rights and can only exacerbate the critical situation in the Middle East.

'Maneuvers to Normalize Failing'

LD041513 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian in its 1 January 1979 Morning Edition carries on page 4 a roundup of IZVESTIYA correspondent reports and TASS and foreign news agency items edited by Gennadiy Deynichenko. The section headed "Demonstrations and Clashes in Iran" reads, in part:

"Reports from Iran attest that the attempts by the country's ruling circles to secure a normalization of the situation through political maneuvers are failing. In particular the probability of a civilian government being formed under the chairmanship of S. Bakhtiar, a representative of the opposition National Front, seems extremely doubtful.

"The leadership of the National Front, of which Bakhtiar is a member, has dissociated itself from him, declaring that Bakhtiar does not represent their viewpoint. K. Sanjabi, leader of the National Front, has reemphasized that the crisis can be resolved only if the shah is removed from power, A. Akhmedzyanov, IZVESTIYA's Tehran correspondent, reports.

"His dispatch says:

"A report about U.S. naval forces being sent to the Persian Gulf region spread through Tehran very rapidly.

"Throughout Tehran's central streets slogans can be seen on the walls of houses reading 'Yankes, Hands Off Iran!' 'The People of Iran Will Determine Their Destiny Themselves!' and there are also anti-shah appeals. Demonstrators have distributed leaflets containing appeals to soldiers not to shoot at the people.

"Journalists in Tehran have learned that as a precaution the United States is devising measures for the evacuation of U.S. personnel from Iran and for dismantling secret U.S. military equipment. According to reports from opposition circles, the shah intends to meet political leaders in the Majlis and Senate where the question of terms for forming a new government will be decided.

"The atmosphere in the shah's entourage is grim, the report says in conclusion. According to the Iran POLITICAL DIGEST, almost the entire family of the shah has left Iran. In addition to the 64 members of the shah's family who left for the United States earlier, the shah's mother has left the country. A special aircraft has taken her to Los Angeles."

4 Jan Situation Report

LD041930Y Moscow TASS in English 1910 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] New York, January 4, TASS--Mass actions are continuing unabated in Iran against that country's present regime. According to a report of a UPI agency correspondent, troops today repeatedly opened fire on demonstrators in the northern districts of Tehran and in Mashhad. Defending themselves, the demonstrators put up barricades and burnt bonfires in the streets in order to hamper the movement of army trucks.

An AP agency correspondent reports that the opposition National Front today called on all the Iranians to mark January 7 nation-wide as the day of tribute to the memory of those who died during the past week when the bullets of soldiers and policemen and under caterpillars of tanks.

The statement by the National Front stresses that the general strike to be held that day will serve as a warning to "plotters, who are out to make compromise with the present regime." The National Front resolutely condemned bloody repressions against the masses and expressed confidence of victory of the people.

Numerous slogans on fences and walls of all the streets of Tehran condemn any compromise with the shah regime. Leaflets appeared near the villa of Shahpur Bakhtiar, who undertook at the request of the shah to form a "civilian government," with the text of the decisions by the leadership of the National Front to expell Bakhtiar from the political organisation. None of the 26 members of the Supreme Council of the front expressed support for the new premier.

Reports are coming about the incessant attempts by the United States to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. The New York TIMES reports that U.S. Ambassador to Tehran William H. Sullivan requested Washington for new instructions, whether the shah would temporarily leave the country or not. The newspaper points out that the shah has recently repeatedly asked Sullivan whether he should leave Iran and under what circumstances. He never mentioned the possibility of abdication and according to State Department officials, Sullivan does not even request for instructions as regards approval for such a step.

Washington, January 4, TASS--The White House press secretary, Jody Powell, reaffirmed here at a press conference that there were no changes in the American policy of support to the shah of Iran.

The official spokesman of the U.S. State Department said that if the shah arrived in the United States he would be welcome and his security would be guaranteed.

The UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL notes that a group of specialists, headed by the assistant secretary of state Harold Saunders, has been set up on the initiative of the State Department and the National Security Council to analyze the possible consequences of an overthrow of the shah regime in Iran.

As reported by foreign correspondents, one of the leaflets circulated in Tehran says that the CIA has drawn up a detailed plan vis-a-vis Iran and is now endeavouring to make one of its placemen, fostered by the Americans for many long years, the prime minister of Iran.

[Moscow in English to North America at 2300 GMT on 4 January reports the following on the situation: In Iran Shahpur Bakhtiar has begun to form a new civilian government after the shah on Thursday officially instructed him to do so. Bakhtiar's consultations with political figures are taking place against the background of unceasing actions by the popular masses against the existing regime and American interference in the country's affairs.

[Today troops again fired on demonstrators in Tehran and Mashhad. The opposition National Front has denounced the bloody reprisals and called for marking next Sunday as a day of mourning for those who died from the bullets of soldiers and police. A general strike is also planned for that day.

[The National Front has excluded Mr Bakhtiar from its ranks for his agreeing to form a new government. Meanwhile, more facts have been revealed about unceasing United States interference in Iran's affairs. A TASS commentator, quoting informed sources, writes that American special services that have established ramified networks in Iran are being reinforced with new agents.]

TASS REPORTS MEETING OF USSR, SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTERS

LD041831Y Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

["Syrian Defence Minister in Moscow"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 4, TASS--Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, defence minister of the USSR, received today Corps General Mustafa Talas, defence minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, who is paying an official visit to the USSR, and the persons accompanying him. A friendly talk ensued on questions of mutual interest.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1930 GMT on 4 January adds the following to the above report: Taking part in the talk were chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Foreign Economic Relations Semen Skachkov and Colonel General Mikhail Kozlov.

[Present at the meeting were Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic of the USSR Jabr al-Kafri and military, air and naval attache, Air Brigadier General M. 'Abdallah.

[On the same day Dmitriy Ustinov gave a dinner in honor of Mustafa Talas.]

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TREATY WILL NOT SOLVE BASIC PROBLEMS

LD221342Y Moscow TASS in English 1158 GMT 22 Dec 78 LD

["Two Peoples--Common Destiny"--TASS heading]

[Text] Moscow, December 22, TASS--None of the basic problems of the Middle East has been resolved at Camp David. And the main of them is the Palestinian problem underlying the conflict. A statement to this effect is contained in an article by Ruth Lubitch, member of the Politbureau Communist Party of Israel CC, published in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

But will a separate peace treaty bring peace and happiness to the peoples of Israeli and Egypt? Of course not. Regrettably, there are not a few naive people cherishing illusions that a "step towards peace" has been made at Camp David. But some time will pass, and the real essence of the separate agreements will appear from under the outward appearance of formulations, the article stresses.

The situation in the region will not improve, but on the contrary, tension will continue running high there. None of the peoples involved in the conflict will win as a result of the conspiracy serving only the interests of American imperialism. Thus, in particular, there is a dispute now on the question of the so-called "autonomy". Begin categorically rejects As-Sadat's demand for setting a time-table for the creation of "autonomy".

The Israeli Government has unambiguously decided, the author writes in this connection, that all the lands occupied by Israel on the West Bank and in the Gaza Sector will remain under Israel's power and will not be turned over under the control of bodies of "autonomy".

It is apt to ask who needs such a faked autonomy? The initiators of this "autonomy"--Carter, Begin and As-Sadat are badly mistaken in their calculations. The "autonomy" plan has aroused profound indignation and wrath among the population of the occupied territories.

Why has the treaty, upon which an agreement was reached at Camp David not been signed so far? It was promised that this would happen very soon. But the time passes and things haven't budged an inch. Carter is nervous, because as is known, under the Camp David accord a peace treaty was to be signed at the most within a three months' period, i.e. by December 17. He has enough ground for concern, as time works against imperialism.

The U.S. President, the article goes on, who devoted so much time and efforts to this venture, and is now risking his prestige cannot allow a failure. It is believed that the present dispute will end much in the same way as the preceding frictions and crises were resolved. As-Sadat will obediently yield some of his positions, and Begin will again make some concessions under the pressure of the American patron. The accomplices united by their common hatred towards the national-liberation movement and communism, will come together around the table of the American boss in order to sign a separate deal.

"The Soviet Union has repeatedly declared that it is ready together with other countries to guarantee the security of all peoples in that area without exception. This is the source of hope for the peoples fighting for a better future for the nations of the Middle East," the author of the article writes in conclusion.

VANCE MIDEAST MISSION WAS 'PROGRAMMED TO FAIL'

LDO41523Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 52, 22 Dec 78 pp 16-17 LD

[D. Volskiy article: "Failure or Maneuver"]

[Text] A quarter of a year has elapsed since the Camp David meeting which ended on 17 September, but the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, for which a 3-month preparation period was allowed, has not been signed. Meanwhile President J. Carter told journalists at a White House breakfast in early December that if the deadline was not met he would consider the Camp David agreements annulled. Secretary of State C. Vance was hastily sent on a special mission to the Near East and he took with him the draft treaty prepared by the Americans. Vance began flying between Egypt and Israel and then telephoned Carter and...reported that he would be returning to Washington emptyhanded.

That happened on the morning of 13 December. On the evening of that same day, speaking at a dinner arranged by the Business Council, the U.S. President unambiguously placed the responsibility for the failure of Vance's mission on Begin's government. During the following days many U.S. newspapers began writing in extremely critical tones about the stance of the Israeli Cabinet. The following picture emerges from their reports. First, Tel Aviv refused to agree to any specific deadlines for "linking" the proposed Israeli-Egyptian treaty with the scant autonomy proposed at Camp David for the Jordan West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Second, Israel demanded that simultaneously with the conclusion of the treaty, Egypt should officially annul its defense agreements with Arab countries. The Egyptian Government was prepared to yield here too. "However," writes the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, "Egyptian President as-Sadat did not go as far as direct capitulation (!) on each of these issues.

Given the resolute rebuff with which the Camp David deal was greeted among the Arabs, an overtly separate treaty and "direct capitulation" would signify a complete loss of political face for the Egyptian president. It seems that this is precisely the wish of Begin, who is seeking to transform As-Sadat's regime into "an apple which will fall unaided at our feet." But this policy spoils the big card game being played by Washington interested in bringing about a rapprochement not only by Cairo but also by Tel Aviv with the "moderate" Arab states, particularly where oil is extracted. Washington sees this as almost the only way of reliably insuring oil deliveries--especially now, given the Iranian crisis.

It is therefore possible to assume that the failure of Vance's mission, which had been deliberately dramatized from the very outset, might have been deliberately planned. After all, even in U.S. Zionist circles, there has long been talk to the effect that it would not be a bad idea to replace the intractable Begin, whose reputation, moreover, is not enhanced by his terrorist past, with a respectable gentleman like, shall we say, Defense Minister Weizman. This is to say nothing of the fact that the wrangle between Begin and Carter is being watched with longing by Washington's tested friends from the Israeli Labor Party which found itself unseated from power a year and a half ago.

It is perfectly possible that all these maneuvers are taking place. But the very fact that it has been found necessary to resort to them attests to the very serious contradictions in which U.S. policy in the Near East has become enmeshed.

TASS REPORTS FURTHER ISRAELI PROVOCATIONS IN LEBANON

LDO31306Y Moscow TASS in English 1218 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, January 3, TASS--A complicated explosive situation remains in the south of Lebanon, where Israeli military and detachments of the "Army for the Defence of the South of Lebanon" are continuing their armed provocations, trying to expand the zone under their control. According to the reports reaching here, over the past twenty four hours rightwing and Israeli artillery continued shelling the town of An-Nabitiyan and populated localities in eastern Al-'Urqub. There are injured among the civilians. Power transmission and water supply lines were destroyed.

Israeli naval boats plying in Lebanon's territorial waters and supported by helicopters detain and search vessels under way to the ports of Lebanon. Last night, a group of Israeli naval boats fired torpedoes at the coastal village of Ras al-'Ayn destroying several houses.

Local observers point out with alarm to the continuing massing of Israeli troops along Lebanon's borders and increasing threats from Tel Aviv. In doing so, the Israelis spread rumours about the alleged "shelling" of Israel from Lebanon's territory. In the opinion of the newspaper AL-WATAN, all this is evidence of Israel's intention to launch a new aggression against areas in South Lebanon with the aim of assisting the conservative forces in the founding of a pro-Israeli state in the south of Lebanon.

4 Jan Report

LDO41504Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Our correspondent Leonid Rassadin reports from Beirut:

The beginning of 1979 has been marked by a new upsurge in tension in southern Lebanon. According to the Palestinian news agency, a large formation of Israeli warships has been spotted off the Mediterranean coast not far from the Israeli border.

On Tuesday Israeli fighters made incessant reconnaissance flights over many population centers in southern Lebanon. It is also reported that these flights have been accompanied by transfers of the aggressor's armored tank and motorized units to the vicinity of the border.

In the opinion of local observers, the Tel Aviv rulers are now clearly trying to find an excuse for a fresh, large-scale act of aggression against the sovereign Republic of Lebanon. Beirut newspapers are connecting the present provocations by the Israeli militarists with an attempt by Israel to aggravate the situation in the region as a whole and on the eve of a possible resumption of the separate bargaining with Cairo.

BEGIN TELLS OF PLANS FOR FURTHER WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

LD041915Y Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Amman, January 4, TASS--Israeli Prime Minister Begin told parliament members that his government intends to continue the construction of new militarised settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan River. According to reports reaching here from Tel Aviv, a long-term plan for the "development" of the West Bank of the Jordan River is being drawn up there. It is planned to set in that area 27,000 Israeli families within the next five years. The Tel Aviv leadership intends to appropriate nearly three billion dollars for the implementation of the programme.

MOSCOW HEBREW: PROSPECTS BLEAK FOR ISRAEL IN 1979

TA050641Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1730 GMT 2 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] A new year, 1979, has begun. In most of the world press the beginning of the new year is marked by the smile of a small child full of hopes and expectations. In Israel too, the beginning of the new year was marked. A new year has indeed begun but the problems that have remained are old and there are no hopes or expectations.

The basic problem, the question of peace, has not been solved. The dash for a peace agreement with As-Sadat has not only not advanced the cause of the Middle East settlement but has pushed it farther away. It has aggravated the political situation and [word indistinct] the Arab-Israeli relations. The crisis in the Middle East--the English TIMES wrote--will not be over even if the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement is signed. This opinion is also shared by many other papers in the United States and Western Europe which usually [word indistinct] the Israeli authorities. An end to the crisis will not come and this indicates that the internal political and economic crisis in Israel will also (?grow).

Economic problems became increasingly severe for the ordinary Israelis last year. As reported from Tel Aviv by UPI correspondents, Israelis do not speak much today of serious political questions. Instead, they are preoccupied with the problems of their daily livelihood. And indeed, even according to important Histadrut leaders, the price index of basic commodities, vital services, public transportation and so on last year rose by more than 60 percent while the wages of the Israeli workers in various branches of the economy rose by only 12 to 30 percent. Thus, the gap between the rise in prices and the worker's income has grown. This process of a general drop in the Israelis' standard of living will continue this year as well, according to the opinion of the Israeli economists themselves. Deputy Finance Minister Flumin said that if state expenditures are not considerably cut, inflation in 1979 will reach a rate of 100 percent instead of the 40 percent last year.

[There will be] a general rise in prices of all basic commodities vital to the workers in Israel. The government intends to cancel completely the governmental subsidies given to food and other basic commodities. This will inevitably lead to complete chaos in the sphere of market prices. It will bring about a wild rise in prices and will severely hurt the Israeli masses. Thus, UPI must admit, [words indistinct] the new economic policy is clear. Those who previously had only to tighten their belts slightly will have to tighten them more now, and this is surely not a happy forecast.

[Passage indistinct] The rule of the rightist and extremist bloc of the Likud has caused a further deterioration in the situation, and, in the opinion of Israeli economists, this [words indistinct] toward (?the beginning) of the next year. Therefore, the outlook for the near future is not a happy one.

MOSCOW RADIO EMPHASIZES LEGITIMACY OF PALESTINIANS' RIGHTS

TA042130Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew to Israel 1730 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] Leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat has recently stated that the Palestinian Arabs are resolved to struggle for a just and viable peace. However, without the recognition of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, Yasir 'Arafat emphasized, no stable peace can be established in the Middle East. In other words, no aggressive acts by the Israeli militarists will drive the Palestinians into abandoning the struggle for their right to live in their historic homeland and be the equals of the other Middle East people, including the Israelis. The justness of the Palestinians' cause is recognized by the people of the world and by the realistic [words indistinct] in Israel itself. It is also recognized in the special resolutions passed by the United Nations.

The Soviet Union, which is firmly opposed to the aggressive policy of any country, also vehemently condemns the belligerent policy of the Israeli ruling circles toward the Arab peoples, including the Palestinians. This is why the Soviet Union has always supported the aspiration of the Palestinian people to set up their own sovereign country. It is in vain that Begin and his propaganda tools try to prove to the Israelis that the Soviet Union wants the liquidation, so to speak, of the State of Israel. This is pure slander and it is doubtful whether anyone believes it. The Soviet Union, the Soviet people, do not want anything evil to happen to the Israeli people. The Soviet Union does not demand the liquidation of the State of Israel. Our country is against the aggressive and imperialistic policy of Israel's ruling circles. It supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people who were expelled from their country and who are living under poor conditions in refugee camps in Lebanon. It is their right to return to their home and to gain rights equal to those of the Israelis. It is also the Palestinians' rights to have a roof over their heads, to raise their children amid peaceful conditions, to [word indistinct] on their forefathers' land, to freely observe their (?customs) and to participate in creating both spiritual and nonspiritual values for succeeding generations.

The repeated belligerent acts of Israel against Lebanon and the Palestinian refugees camps within its territory prove that the Israeli ruling circles only verbally want peace. Their actions do not confirm their desire for peace. In fact, they intend to continue to ignore the Palestinians' rights and to continue to cultivate tension in the Middle East. This can only lead to war and to further bloodshed among both Palestinians and Israelis. Is it in the Israelis' and Arabs' interest to continue Israeli-Arab hostility?

Reports coming from Israel indicate that the atmosphere of aggression and militarism prevailing among the ruling circles is hated by the Israeli masses. Therefore, they are daily increasing their struggle against the policy of violence and terror directed toward the Palestinian people. They are increasing their struggle in favor of friendship and peaceful coexistence. The Soviet people hope that the same forces will ultimately achieve a change in the present policy, which can only lead to new conflagrations. The Israeli-Arab conflict must be solved on a just basis and according to the UN resolutions.

AUCCTU GREET PALESTINIANS ON RESISTANCE ANNIVERSARY

LD011216Y Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 1, TASS--The newspaper TRUD published today a message of greetings by the Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR congratulating the Trade Union Federation of Palestine and all Palestinian working people on their national holiday, the 14th anniversary of the Palestine resistance movement. The Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR reaffirms its invariable solidarity with the consistent struggle of the Arab people of Palestine for a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement that can be achieved only by collective efforts of all the sides concerned on the basis of total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab lands occupied in 1967 and ensurance of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and to their own statehood.

The message expresses confidence that relations of brotherly cooperation between the trade union organizations of the USSR and Palestine will be strengthened and developed in the interests of friendship between the Soviet and Palestinian peoples and development of the unity of the international working class movement in the struggle against the forces of imperialism, Zionism and reaction, for peace, security and social progress of the peoples.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ANNIVERSARY

LD041417Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent K. Geyvandov report: "Under the Banner of Resistance"]

[Text] Beirut, December--The PLO headquarters in Lebanon is an ordinary building in an ordinary Beirut street. But on crossing its threshold you immediately find yourself at the center of political events in the Near East.

The 14th anniversary of the start of the active struggle by the Arab people of Palestine for the restoration of their rights is now being marked. The sole generally acknowledged legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is the PLO. Under its leadership a broad resistance movement of Palestinians against Israeli occupation, a return to the motherland and creation of their own independent state has been launched.

Together with Abu (Takher), one of the leaders of the PLO information service, we made a short tour of various departments of the Palestinian resistance movement's combat headquarters. Its rooms and corridors are decked with posters and slogans calling people to the struggle. Exhibitions are organized here to describe the heroic path traveled by the Palestinian people, who have not reconciled themselves to being an exiled people, but have come out against the Israeli aggressors, weapons in hand.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Reports reaching here from the Israeli-occupied Arab territories show that the occupiers have not succeeded in bringing the Palestinians to their knees, nor have they succeeded in finding conciliators among them who are prepared to support the American-Israeli-Egyptian separate deal.

This is what Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, spoke of during his talk with us.

The Arab people of Palestine, fighting under the PLO's leadership for the restoration of their flouted national rights, he noted, have many enemies. This includes above all American imperialism and Zionism. They are also coming up against the treacherous policy of Egyptian President as-Sadat, who, in signing the Camp David agreements, is in essence trying to stab the Arab people of Palestine in the back, as well as the peoples of all the Arab countries. However, the enemies are not capable of making us end the national liberation struggle. On the contrary, in the face of new trials and dangers the Palestinians are rallying their ranks still more closely in order to more successfully rebuff the aggressors and occupiers. As you know, since the signing of the capitulatory agreements at Camp David, much work has been done in strengthening the unity and cooperation of all Palestinian organizations under the aegis of the PLO.

The Arab people of Palestine, Y. 'Arafat continued, are looking to the future with confidence, because however many enemies they may have, they have still more friends and allies not only in the peoples of Arab countries, but in all progressive mankind and the great Soviet Union and other socialist states. The justness of our cause was clearly demonstrated on 29 November 1978, when the international day of solidarity with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine was widely marked throughout the world in accordance with a UN decision. I must say that we Palestinians were deeply touched and inspired by the message sent to the PLO in this connection by that great friend of the Palestinian people L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Despite our enemies' plots and intrigues against the Palestinian resistance movement, Y. 'Arafat said in conclusion, the PLO has no intention of laying down its arms and is fully determined to fight until complete victory is achieved in the just cause of the Arab people of Palestine--for the restoration of our usurped rights, including the Palestinians' right to create an independent national state.

As we were leaving the PLO headquarters, new reports were coming about provocations by the Israeli military, which had subjected settlements and Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon to cruel artillery fire and bombing. By such methods Tel Aviv is repeatedly trying to terrorize the Palestinians and make them renounce their rights. But these attempts are futile. A businesslike atmosphere reigned in PLO headquarters.

IRAQI MILITARY ATTACHE HOSTS MOSCOW RECEPTION

LD041922Y Moscow TASS in English 1813 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 4, TASS--Brigadier I. H. Muhiddin, the military, air force and naval attache at the Iraqi Embassy in the USSR, today gave a reception on the occasion of the armed forces day of Iraq.

The reception was attended by deputy defense minister of the USSR, General of the Army Aleksandr Altunin, generals, admirals and officers of the Soviet Army and Navy. Also present was the Ambassador of Iraq in the USSR Murtada Sa'id 'Abd al'Baqi.

LD041430Y Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

Official Beijing propaganda is trying to prevent the tour as China's support of the national liberation movement against the racist regimes in southern Africa. It is indicative that after many years of complete silence about the struggle by the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia against the racists of South Africa and Rhodesia the Chinese news agency has all of a sudden hastened to declare full support for what it calls a sacred struggle by the South African patriots.

Beijing has long wished to get a foothold in Africa. It would like to see the continent a sphere of constant international conflicts, but to disguise its real goals Beijing declares that it allegedly supports the African nations in their struggle against the regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia. It is an open fact that Beijing is maintaining ties with racist South Africa in various fields, including economy. Beijing leaders call for closing the ranks in the fight against racism, imperialism and neocolonialism, and at the same time they raise a hue and cry about foreign interference in this fight, clearly implying the Soviet Union, but the Soviet Union has never interfered in any country's internal affairs. This, however, does not rule out the Soviet Union's support of people's just struggle for national liberation. This can't be said of Chinese leaders and for this reason, as foreign observers point out, Li Xiannian will hardly succeed in getting the leaders of Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia frightened with the mythical Soviet threat. It is not ruled out that there will be a different situation in Zaire. As is known, Beijing supported the NATO countries' intervention during the popular uprising in the province of Shaba last year.

The propaganda campaign about China's diplomatic activity in Africa cannot conceal the fact that the policy of Beijing leaders is aimed at undermining the national liberation movements in Africa.

LD090036Y Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[From the "Africa as We See It" program]

[Text] What was most characteristic of Africa in 1978? This question is answered by a Soviet scholar of Africa, Nikolay (Gavrilov).

To begin with, there was a stronger confrontation between the forces struggling for national and social liberation and those of domestic and external reaction, which are trying to slow down and stop the onward march of history. The high points in this confrontation were the armed imperialist aggression in Shaba Province, in Zaire, in the spring of last year, and the more active military operations in Zimbabwe and the fictitious elections in Namibia.

It may seem at first glance that the imperialists and their agents in African countries managed to reach some of their objectives. The act of aggression in Zaire was a success in this respect, on the whole. The imperialists so far managed to prevent the power take-over in Zimbabwe and Namibia by progressive forces. [passage indistinct] But all that only strengthens the determination of the African people to press for an end to the last remaining pockets of racism and colonialism, to insure conditions for free and independent development. 1978 showed that Africa, as it (?enters) the path of resurgence, does not intend to renounce its vital interests.

Speaking about the process in Africa, Leonid Brezhnev stressed this point: At present African countries have greatly increased their role in international affairs. The imperialists can no longer discount their opinions. In these conditions, the Soviet leader pointed out, it is particularly important to promote cohesion and unity of action by those African countries that advocate lasting peace, that are opposed to imperialism, colonialism and racism.

Complex situations arise in Africa because the profound changes taking place on the continent are contrary to the interests of the ruling groups in the West. So by increasing tension on the continent these Western groups are trying to attain their selfish objectives. [words indistinct] processes that it is impossible to stop. These include the process of complete liberation of Africa from colonialism and racism, and the advance of African peoples along the path of social progress. The Soviet Union takes part in these processes. It has been giving and intends to keep giving assistance for the liberation movements. It is doing so selflessly. It is not looking for advantages for itself. It is not pressing for political domination and it is not out for military bases.

ETHIOPIAN URBAN DWELLERS ASSOCIATIONS HELP REMAKE SOCIETY

ID051418Y Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 5 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, January 5, TASS--"Kabale," or urban dwellers associations, begin playing an increasing role in the life of Ethiopian cities. Coming into being during the national democratic revolution these self-government bodies of urban working people have now assumed practically the entire local power.

The powers of the kabale are quite diverse. They are in charge of distribution of housing and the maintenance of public security in the neighbourhood, watch the condition of streets, and provide the residents with prime necessities. In Addis Ababa alone, more than three thousand cheap houses, 29 kindergartens and 102 children's playgrounds have been built with their help during the years of the revolution. Combatting the schemings of profiteers and wreckers who tried to frustrate the normal provision of the capital with food, they opened 207 cooperative shops. There are always all the necessary things in those shops.

The kabale set up literacy courses and libraries of their own.

The activities of the urban dwellers' associations are gaining in scope, promoting the hastening of the process of radical remaking of society, started by the revolution.

WEST SAID PUSHING INDONESIA TO RESTORE TIES WITH CAMBODIA

BK041044Y Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia 1330 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Lev Almazov commentary: "How Far Is Indonesia Going To Be Pushed?"]

[Text] Western news agencies have recently spread the rumor that Jakarta and Phnom Penh are getting ready to restore diplomatic relations, exchange ambassadors and expand their ties. If the normalization of relations between the two countries were to serve the interests of peace, it would be welcomed without question; however, political observers in Asia view the situation differently. They point out that Western circles are trying to bring about a rapprochement between Indonesia and Cambodia in the hopes of preserving the balance of power in the region as the United States sees it.

With this objective in mind, the West has applied a certain amount of pressure on Indonesia. The ASSOCIATED PRESS "admits" that the politicians in Washington are trying to tie the future of Indonesia and the other ASEAN countries to that of China through the intermediary of Cambodia, China's satellite. In this matter, Washington is being assisted by the Beijing [Peking] leaders.

BERITA BUANA, an Indonesian newspaper, recently charged that the XINHUA [NCNA] news agency was spreading unfounded reports alleging that the ASEAN countries welcomed the appeal made by Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping] during his recent Southeast Asian tour to intensify the struggle against hegemony. BERITA BUANA says: This proves that efforts are being made to drag the ASEAN countries into a confrontation with Vietnam, which is faced with provocations by the Beijing hegemonists and the Phnom Penh puppets. In the West, China is now called the Nazi of the East.

The imperialist countries have concluded large transactions with China concerning the delivery of modern weapons--antitank and antiaircraft rockets, jet planes and electronic devices for airfields. The dangerous game being played by the West in accordance with this balance of power concept has drawn criticism from the Asian countries which are oriented towards nonalignment and the Bandung principles.

Observers note that Indonesia has no intention of backing down in the face of pressures made by certain Western circles and the Beijing leaders. This is reflected in Indonesia's refusal to restore diplomatic relations with China.

Speaking at a press conference several days ago, Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja reiterated that the Indonesian public opposes the restoration of diplomatic relations with China. Explaining this opposition, Mochtar recalled a statement made by PRC Vice Prime Minister Deng Xiaoping during his visit to Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Deng Xiaoping affirmed that Beijing's policy toward antigovernment groups operating in Malaysia, Indonesia and other ASEAN countries had not changed. In other words, China, as in the past, assures them of continual support in terms of money and weapons.

The Western press does not hide the fact that the Phnom Penh regime, which along with Indonesia is being pressured into a rapprochement, is completely pro-Beijing. Their leaders, Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, are half-Chinese. They have stayed in power thanks to Chinese military support and mass repression in their country.

When Ieng Sary visited Jakarta in October 1978, the newspaper PELITA reported that mass repression was taking place in Cambodia under Ieng Sary's direction. The repression included the (?persecution) of innocent citizens and the forced evacuation of people from towns to villages. The newspaper added that besides those subjected to persecution, more than 2 million Cambodians have died of starvation. Chinese propagandists describe this new type of slavery regime as socialism. It seems that the followers of Mao Zedong [Mao Tse-tung] want to spread this so-called (?Pol Pot-Ieng Sary type of society) to other Asian countries.

What is being said about this antidemocratic regime in the West? U.S. President Carter, who is concerned about human rights in other countries, is obligated to criticize the genocidal policy in Cambodia. However, human rights supporters in the United States have adopted an indifferent attitude toward the lot of the Cambodian people. Of more importance to them is the balance of power concept. In the past, they pushed Indonesia into a secret wedding with the Saigon regime which, however, met its downfall. Now, certain politicians in the West, in accordance with the rules of the game they play with China, harbor the hope that Indonesia and the other ASEAN countries will make a rapprochement with the antidemocratic and medieval Phnom Penh regime, which is under Chinese control.

With this objective in mind, the mass media in the West have been trying to use Vietnam to scare the ASEAN countries by projecting unfounded ideas, such as the domino theory, and alleging that a unified Vietnam poses a certain threat to its neighbors in Southeast Asia.

There is no need to prove that this theory is unfounded. It is contradicted by the real situation, including the Vietnamese relationship with ASEAN. Thanks to the SRV's peaceful initiatives, mutual understanding has been reached and mutually beneficial cooperation has been developed between Vietnam and the ASEAN countries.

Prime Minister Pham Van Dong's recent visit to Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, and the talks he held with the leaders of the countries he visited indicate once again that Vietnam and the ASEAN countries adhere to the principles of neighborly relations.

Under these circumstances, the fresh attempts made by certain Western circles and their accomplices, the Beijing leaders, to hinder the positive process of strengthening the cooperation and mutual understanding among the Southeast Asian countries and to hinder the Southeast Asian countries' collective attempts to turn this region into a zone of peace will certainly fail.

CORRESPONDENTS DESCRIBE VIETNAMESE PROGRESS, WAR PROBLEMS

LD051007Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Dispatch by special correspondents I. Lebedev, V. Skvortsov and Yu. Sklyarov:
"New Horizons"]

[Excerpts] Hanoi-Moscow--Our tour of Vietnam took place at a special and portentous time. A party and government delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] headed by Le Duan, general secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party [VCP] Central Committee, and Pham Van Dong, member of the VCP Central Committee Politburo and prime minister of the SRV Government, had just concluded a visit to Moscow, and the friendship and cooperation treaty, as well as a number of economic agreements, had been signed between our countries.

Everyone with whom we met and spoke on our long trip through the longitudinal country emphasized the treaty's importance and conformity with the interests of the two peoples' peaceful creative labor and with the plans for socialist and communist building in our countries. This document of great international significance serves the cause of further strengthening peace both in Southeast Asia and throughout the world.

"The treaty signed in Moscow," Comrade To Huu, candidate member of the VCP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the VCP Central Committee, pointed out in conversation with us, "has inspired the Vietnamese people. Their faith in the Soviet Union's fraternal support and in our friendship is unshakable. The entire Vietnamese people participated, figuratively speaking, in signing the treaty along with our delegation in Moscow...."

A new stage. This capacious definition, full of historical optimism, accurately expresses the essence of our relations today and their development in the future. More and more ships flying the Hammer and Sickle are tying up at the wharves of Haiphong, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh. Columns of Soviet-made trucks are traveling Vietnam's roads. Soviet tractors are plowing in cooperative fields in the Red and Mekong river deltas.

In addition to motor vehicles and agricultural equipment Vietnam receives petroleum products, fertilizers, metals and various raw materials from the USSR. The SRV is in turn supplying us with increasing volumes of articles made of valuable types of wood, fruit and vegetables, tea, coffee, spices, sewn goods and handicraft wares. Mixed Vietnamese-Soviet collectives frequently work in mines, plants and power stations.

Our country gives the SRV technical and economic assistance in planning and constructing approximately 100 industrial enterprises, installations and other projects, including the hydroengineering complex on the Black River with a capacity of up to 2 million kilowatts--the largest in Southeast Asia, the cement plant in Bien Son with productivity of 1.2 million tons a year, the Pha Lai thermal electric power station with a capacity of 600,000 kilowatts, the Cao Son coal mine, house-building combines and enriching factories.

When discussing the new economic agreements signed in Moscow--on Soviet assistance in insuring normal traffic on the "Unity" main railroad linking Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh, in completing construction of the Thanh Long Bridge over the Red River, in training Vietnamese specialists and skilled workers and also in constructing a space communications ground station of the "Intersputnik" type--Vietnamese speak with gratitude of the consistent, socialist internationalism of the CPSU and the Soviet state.

Our relations with heroic Vietnam have always been selfless and, both during the war years and the time of peaceful building, aimed at supporting the fraternal people in the struggle for their motherland's freedom and independence and in implementing the plans for socialist building.

The peaceful labor of the Vietnamese is being seriously hampered by armed provocations on the Republic's northern border and by the subversive campaign launched against the SRV by the Peking leadership. Incursions into Vietnamese territory and border violations are following one after another. As a result of incitement by Peking agents and intimidation and threats, ethnic Chinese are moving out and leaving Vietnam, taking grain and implements with them, destroying buildings and driving out livestock. Energetic measures have had to be taken in a number of regions to provide entire production sectors with a work force and specialists.

Tribute should be paid to the calm and self-control with which party and state organs have taken urgent measures to remove the difficulties that have arisen. On the highway leading to the Republic's northern provinces we met dozens of special buses and trucks. They were taking specialists, workers and even some equipment to both enterprises and cooperatives in a difficult position.

Coexistence among different establishments in the economy will evidently remain a feature of Vietnam for some indefinite time. This is noticeable in southern provinces, where the process of profound socialist transformations is still only getting underway. Whereas socialist production relations are being further improved in the north of the country, in the south it is still a question of establishing and consolidating them, as well as transferring to the production sphere hundreds of thousands of small property owners remaining from the neocolonialist regime.

Party committees and organs of people's power take a creative approach to resolving the complex social and economic problems in the south of the Republic. Here they have to work in direct proximity to the border with Kampuchea, from where population centers, enterprises and agricultural cooperatives are subjected to bandit-like raids and shelling. Northwest of Ho Chi Minh City, near the so-called "Parrot's Beak" in Tay Ninh Province, for example, enemy long-range artillery shells have exploded in more than one of the seven districts that comprise the province. Sizable funds are being allocated to local organs to help the Kampuchean refugees, of whom there are now several tens of thousands in Tay Ninh alone.

VIETNAM'S GIAP CITED ON TREATY WITH USSR, FRICTION WITH PRC

LDO41615Y Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[TASS report: "Guarding Socialism's Gains"]

[Text] Hanoi, 22 December, TASS--The people of Socialist Vietnam are widely observing the 34th anniversary of the formation of their glorious armed forces. On this important date a ceremonial meeting was held in the capital of the Republic at which Le Duan, general secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party [VCP] Central Committee, and other party and state leaders were present.

Those present were addressed by Army General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the VCP Central Committee Politburo and deputy prime minister and minister of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]. He said that the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty between the SRV and the USSR was an event of great importance. It is a new stage in the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between the peoples of the SRV and the Soviet Union on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

We, Vo Nguyen Giap declared, expressed warm thanks to the fraternal Soviet people, to the peoples of the other fraternal socialist countries and to all peoples to whom peace and justice in the world are dear for their support and help to the SRV in the cause of building socialism and defending of the fatherland.

The enemy gives us no peace, he said. The spearhead of the expansionism and great-power hegemonism of Peking, which has entered into conspiracy with imperialism and shameless reaction, is directed against the states of the socialist system. The Chinese ruling circles are attempting to split and undermine the international communist and national liberation movements and are expanding the arms race with the aim to plunging the world into the abyss of war.

Peking sees the appearance and strengthening of a peaceful, independent, unified socialist Vietnam following an independent sovereign course and a policy of international solidarity based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism as a serious obstacle to the implementation of its expansionist schemes, primarily in Southeast Asia. China makes use of the reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique as a strike force for unleashing an aggressive war on the southwest border of Vietnam, is committing innumerable crimes against our compatriots and is encroaching on SRV territory, airspace and territorial waters.

Victory will be on our side, Vo Nguyen Giap emphasized, because we are being helped by the Soviet Union, the other fraternal socialist countries and also states to whom peace and justice are dear.

JAPANESE ANTI-SOVIET POLICY DRAWS COMMENT

LD041529Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Article by political observer V. Kudryavtsev: "Japan: Words Must be Backed Up by Deeds"]

[Text] It is natural that when a new government comes to power in a particular country, world public opinion has a right to expect from it a new or at least renovated policy. Of course, this does not rule out continuity in realizing the traditional foreign and domestic policies of that country and the specific circumstances.

The government of Masayoshi Ohira, the new leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, recently came to power in Japan. The new government has emphasized foreign policy continuity in the fact, for example, that S. Sonoda has retained the post of foreign minister, having held the same post in the previous Fukuda government. To use Japanese terminology, the Fukuda Cabinet pursued "diplomacy in all directions." What does this mean? If you accept the words at face value, it means Japan pursued a balanced policy with regard to the United States, the PRC and the Soviet Union. M. Ohira, who has acceded to power, has essentially confirmed this Japanese foreign policy credo. In an interview published in TIME magazine on 11 December 1978 he declared: "China, the Soviet Union and the United States are our neighbors. Mutual understanding and exchanges will naturally increase with time. We will not emphasize relations with one of the countries at the expense of relations with the others." We will not dispute the premier's definition of the term "neighbors" but will turn to the actual state of affairs.

The Fukuda government concluded with the PRC the so-called peace and friendship treaty, which includes an article on "hegemonism" directed against the Soviet Union. This fact is recognized by the overwhelming majority of world public opinion and is essentially not concealed by the Peking authorities. For the sake of concluding this treaty Japan agreed to consign to oblivion Peking's claims to the Senkaku Islands. Furthermore, under pressure from Peking the Japanese Government changed the emphasis in its foreign policy line. Thus, for example, Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping] came to Japan not only to participate in the ceremony of exchanging the instruments of ratification of the Japanese-Chinese peace treaty but also to try to persuade the Japanese that Japan "must spend more on defense and take a tougher stand with regard to the Soviet Union." Deng Xiaoping, as the KYODO news agency reports, approved the new defense measures taken by Japan on the basis of the Japanese-American "security treaty," that is, the treaty against which Peking was fulminating only quite recently.

Against whom, then, are all these measures to strengthen Japan's "defense" directed? Of course, China is excluded in the light of the treaty with Japan and Deng Xiaoping's statements. There can be no question at all of the United States, since the arming of Japan over and above any defensive norm is being intensified with the Pentagon's help.

Thus Japan's stand with regard to two of the three "neighbors" mentioned by Prime Minister M. Ohira in his TIME interview is perfectly clear. This leaves the Soviet Union. How do things stand there? Noting that the Soviet Union desires improved relations with Japan, Prime Minister M. Ohira said at an 8 December press conference that "for Japan, too, the maintenance of friendly relations with the USSR--its northern neighbor--is an important foreign policy aim." [paragraph continues]

Japanese Foreign Minister S. Sonoda in turn declared in an interview in the newspaper Tokyo SHIMBUN that he will "promote improved relations" with the Soviet Union. This is how things stand in words. But in fact?

Things are not moving fast, and the assurances that Japan will not place emphasis on relations with one of the countries at the expense of relations with the others so far remain just empty phrases. In actual fact, both Japanese-American and Japanese-Chinese relations have a plainly anti-Soviet thrust. To put it frankly, this is strikingly at variance with the statements of high-ranking officials. With regard to their northern neighbor Japanese governments (in this they observe unimpeachable consistency!) have been delaying concluding a peace treaty, making knowingly groundless and unlawful territorial claims on the USSR and avoiding discussion of the question of concluding the treaty proposed by the Soviet Union on neighborliness and cooperation between the USSR and Japan. And these are the very real deeds which should have backed up the words of high-ranking Japanese.

Account must also be taken of the fact that neighborliness with the USSR backed up by deeds is not only destined to serve Japan's immediate national interests but is also an indispensable factor of lasting peace in the Far East and also throughout Asia.

The experience of Soviet-Japanese relations shows that they demonstrate the sides' full equality, mutual advantage and respect for one another. All this noticeably distinguishes the nature of Soviet-Japanese relations from Japan's relations with the United States, and now also with Peking, which are trying to turn Japan into the obedient tool of their aggressive policy. As for the Soviet Union, it has always been prepared and is prepared now actually to maintain and develop stable, mutually advantageous and equal relations with Japan with mutual regard for national interests and for the interests of peace and security in the Far East.

The Soviet public expects not words but deeds confirming Japan's readiness for sound neighborliness with the Soviet Union.

DPRK DELEGATION STOPS IN MOSCOW ON WAY TO ALGERIA

SK300904Y Moscow in Korean to Korea 1145 GMT 29 Dec 78 SK

[Text] The DPRK delegation led by Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Committee, the KWP Central Committee and vice president of the DPRK, has stopped over in Moscow on the way to Algeria. It was met by and seen off by Comrade (Kholov), deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

CUPAN REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN HAVANA, MOSCOW

Romanov Meets Raul Castro, Blas Roca

LD050945Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Friendly Meeting in Havana"]

[Text] Havana, 2 January--The Soviet party and state delegation headed by G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningradskiy CPSU Obkom, which is taking part in the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, has had a friendly meeting with Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and first vice president of the State Council and Council of Ministers; Blas Roca, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the State Council and president of the National Assembly, and other Cuban leaders.

The head of the Soviet delegation conveyed to the Cuban friends a message of greetings from L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and A.N. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

Demichev Comments in Moscow

LD041543Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Fraternal Cuba's Holiday"]

[Text] A ceremonial meeting of representatives of the capital's public devoted to liberation day--the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution--was held in Moscow on 25 December.

In the Presidium were A.Ya. Pelshe, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo; P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture; M. Kholov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; T.Ya. Kiselev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; leaders of ministries and departments, responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee, military leaders and activists of the Soviet-Cuban Friendship Society. A Cuban delegation headed by F. Grobart, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and director of the PCC Central Committee Institute of the History of the Cuban Communist Movement and Socialist Revolution, and J. Puerta Quiroga, Cuban charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR, were also present.

P.N. Demichev, who delivered the report, conveyed congratulations on their holiday to the Cuban people from the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev personally. He noted that the victory of the Cuban revolution was a component of the revolutionary process initiated by Great October. The heroic standard-bearers of the Cuban revolution headed by Fidel Castro became a decisive victorious force because they were backed by the Cuban people, the oppressed and exploited masses who hated foreign oppression and wholeheartedly desired true, real freedom and independence for their motherland.

The strength of the Cuban revolution lies in the fact that it united the nationwide movement for Cuba's freedom and renewal with the great Marxist-Leninist teaching, with a clear scientific understanding of the laws of social development, and adopted the rich experience of other people's revolutionary struggle.

The invincibility of the Cuban revolution lies in its internationalism, in its close cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries. Socialist Cuba, P.N. Demichev continued, became the beacon for all peoples in Latin America struggling for freedom and social justice.

The speaker stressed that in recent years the ideological cooperation between the CPSU and the PCC has become even closer. During Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's visit to Cuba ways were jointly determined for further developing our fraternal ties. The peoples of the Soviet Union and Cuba have broad opportunities for exchanging experience and for familiarizing themselves with each other's cultural, sociopolitical, economic and spiritual life.

It is with a feeling of special sympathy and comradely solidarity that Soviet people are celebrating this notable date in the life of fraternal Cuba. They rejoice in its achievements in all spheres of life. Revolutionary Cuba stands firmly in the ranks of the fraternal socialist countries and the forces of present-day social progress. This is a guarantee of new victories for the Cuban people in socialist building.

In his speech J. Puerta Quiroga noted that the Cuban working people under the leadership of the PCC are engaged in fulfilling the tasks of the first 5-year plan aimed at creating the material and technical base of socialism. Our foreign policy, he said, has been developed on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and international detente, on the basis of the principles of socialist and proletarian internationalism. The main element of our foreign policy is friendship with the USSR and all the socialist community countries. The Cuban revolution has relied from the first on the aid of the CPSU, the USSR Government and entire Soviet people. As Comrade Fidel Castro noted at the 25th CPSU Congress, the Cuban people are proud of their relations with the Soviet Union. These relations are a model for internationalist practice, mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual trust.

The fraternal friendship and cooperation between the two parties, countries and peoples, J. Puerta Quiroga said, are the embodiment of the great principles of socialist internationalism.

On the same day a Soviet-Cuban friendship month began in the USSR to mark the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

Romanov Returns to USSR

LDO41224Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Soviet party and state delegation led by Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom, returned from Havana today. The delegation took part in the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

III. 5 Jan 79

U S S R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
P O L I T I C A L & S O C I A L D E V E L O P M E N T S

R 1

GEORGIAN SUPREME SOVIET SESSION MAKES PERSONNEL CHANGES

LD041525Y Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 22 Dec 78 pp 1,4 LD

[Excerpts] GRUZINFORM--The people's elected representatives once again filled the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Hall of Sessions on 21 December.

The third and final meeting of the 10th session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, 9th convocation, began at 0900. Deputy Z.V. Vasadze, deputy chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, was in the chair.

The deputies unanimously adopted the Georgian SSR law on the Georgian Council of Ministers.

The deputies then adopted a Georgian Supreme Soviet resolution "On the Procedure for Putting Into Effect the Georgian SSR Law on the Georgian Council of Ministers."

The session unanimously adopted the law "On the Ratification of the Georgian SSR Forestry Code."

The deputies unanimously ratified the Georgian Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees adopted between sessions and subject to ratification by the Supreme Soviet and adopted corresponding laws and resolutions.

The session decided to release Deputy V.M. Siradze from the post of chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet Permanent Commission on Foreign Affairs in connection with his election as deputy chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Deputy G.N. Yemukidze was elected chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet Permanent Commission on Foreign Affairs.

According to the rules on Georgian Supreme Soviet permanent commissions, deputies who are members of the government cannot be elected to these commissions. Therefore the session decided to release deputy A.O. Movsesyan from the post of member of the Georgian Supreme Soviet Permanent Commission on Agriculture in connection with his appointment as Georgian minister of the meat and dairy industry.

BRIEFS

ARABIC IN UZBEKISTAN'S SCHOOLS--Tashkent, January 3, TASS--A text-book for teenagers making the first steps in the study of the Arabic language has been prepared by the Orientalists of Tashkent University. The textbook gives the fundamentals of Arabic writing and grammar. The textbook which was published today is completing a series of books for assimilation in Arabic-language secondary schools. This language is studied in eight schools of Uzbekistan, one of the fifteen union republics of the USSR. Next year Arabic will be taught in another seventeen schools. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1233 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD]

KHABAROVSK CITY PARTY CONFERENCE--A city party conference was held in Khabarovsk last Saturday. It discussed an accountability report made by Popov, Khabarovsk Gorkom first secretary. The conference was addressed by Chernyy, Khabarovsk Kraykom first secretary, and was attended by members of the Khabarovsk Kraykom Bureau. A new city party committee was elected. At its first plenum the committee elected Prov as first secretary, Bogdanov as second secretary, and (Korosterev) as secretary of the Khabarovsk Gorkom. At a party conference in Komsomolsk-na-Amure, (Buryak) was elected Gorkom first secretary. At a party conference in Sovetskaya Gavan, Basev was elected gorkom first secretary. A new city party committee was elected at a party conference in Nikolayevsk-na-Amure. The committee elected Vozhevitov as first secretary of the gorkom.

[Khabarovsk Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 25 Dec 78 OW]

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U S S R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
E C O N O M I C D E V E L O P M E N T S

S 1

BREZHNEV GREETINGS MESSAGE TO COAL MINERWORKERS

ID272335Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev addressed a greetings message to miners, engineers and technicians, all employees, and party, trade union and Komsomol organizations of the Karagandaugol Association's Kostenko mine, the Gukovugol Association's Kostenko mine, the Gukovugol Association's 50-Letiye Oktyabrya mine, and the Gidrougol Association's Nagornaya mine of the USSR Ministry of Coal Industry.

The message says: Dear comrades, the labor reports on your teams' ahead of schedule fulfillment of the planned targets for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan and the socialist pledges for coal extraction in 1978 were received in the CPSU Central Committee with great satisfaction.

Since the beginning of the 5-year period you have extracted some 22 million tons of coking coal and anthracite, including over 1 million tons in excess of the plan. Without additional production capacities, coal extraction at enterprises increased by 1.3 million tons over this period, which is equivalent to the commissioning of a new major mine. It is important to note that the movement of miners' teams in the coal industry for the extraction of 1,000 or more tons of coal per 24 hours per working face has been raised to a higher qualitative [as heard] level at your mines. Thanks to the widespread introduction of progressive methods of labor organization, better utilization of mining equipment, and perfecting of the miner's professional skills, extraction of 1,400-2,000 tons of coal per 24 hours is ensured at all working faces in operation. This has made it possible to considerably improve all technical and economic indices regarding the enterprises as a whole.

Your labor achievements, the messages continued, are a shining example of a concrete and businesslike approach to the implementing of the instructions of the 25th CPSU Congress on raising the effectiveness of social production. They are the result of constant concern for the long-term development of enterprises, the timely preparation of working faces, and the introduction of all that is new and progressive. Much fruitful work is carried out by party, trade union and Komsomol organizations and by management in creating conditions for high-performance work and good leisure for miners. This promotes successful implementation of the targets and pledges by all production links. At the mines there are no lagging teams. All working people are exceeding the set norms of output. The new socialist pledges to fulfill the targets for the 4th year of the current 5-year plan ahead of schedule and to extract at least 315,000 tons of coal above the plan, adopted by you in response to the decisions of the November 1978 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, deserve great approval.

I am deeply convinced, writes Comrade Brezhnev, that the valuable initiatives of the miners of the Kostenko, 50-Letiye Oktyabrya, and Nagornaya mines for utilizing existing reserves in production and raising efficiency in coal extraction, will meet with warm support in all mining teams in the country, and will promote the growth of our homeland's fuel potential. Leonid Ilich wished the miners further labor successes.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, COSTS RISING BUT RENT UNCHANGED

ID021526Y Moscow TASS in English 1427 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 2, TASS--The TASS correspondent, Aleksandr Stroganov, writes:

About 110 million square meters of living floor space were made available in the USSR in 1978. Several million families moved into new, more comfortable apartments. The right of Soviet citizens to housing is recorded in the Constitution of the USSR, the fundamental law of the country. It is guaranteed by all the material possibilities of the state.

Figuratively, the USSR is called a vast construction site. Total accommodation of the country increased fifteen fold in Soviet times, while the population went up only 50 percent. From year to year the state allocates ever more resources on home building. Whereas capital investment for these purposes was 2,300 million roubles in 1950 (in comparable prices), the figure for 1976 was already 16,500 million roubles. In the last three years alone, some 32 million people in the country improved their housing conditions. The allocation of homes is controlled by trade unions and other public organizations. It goes without saying that front-rankers in production, war and labour veterans have the first claim to housing.

Construction costs are steadily growing because of improvements in the quality of housing. Rents, however, have remained unchanged since 1928 though the incomes of the population increased several times in this period. The "secret" of this is simple: The state incurs the bulk of costs on the maintenance of housing. Several thousand million roubles are annually allocated for this purpose. That is why the rents of factory and office workers, on the average, do not exceed 2.5 percent of their wages.

SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OPENS IN TURKMENIA

ID050140Y Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 4 Jan 79 ID

[Text] January 4, TASS--The USSR's first scientific-research institute of solar energy opened today at the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenia, Central Asia. The staff-members of this institute will be busy designing and introducing into the national economy apparatuses which rely on solar energy. Solar energy is one of the assets of the republic, with more than 250 days a year being sunny, said Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the republic Orazgeldy Ovesgeldyev. In recent years Turmenian scientists have designed scores of solar apparatuses. The task is to develop autonomous heliocomplexes to operate in the desert, in remote settlements, pastures, geological camps. Solar energy will be used in house-hold furnaces, hot houses. It will generate electric current. Experimental "solar townships" will appear in the Karakum Desert in the near future. The institute will become a centre of comprehensive study and use of solar energy.

BRIEFS

FIRST TU-154 IN MURMANSK--The First TU-154 has landed at Murmansk airport. It then flew to Odessa. Planes of this type will appear on other routes, too, connecting transpolar Murmansk with Leningrad, Simferopol, Mineralnyye Vody and Sochi. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Jan 79 ID]

WATCH, MICROCALCULATOR PRICES DROP--The USSR State Committee on Prices reports that as of 5 January state retail prices for electric wristwatches with moving hands and for digital watches working on liquid crystals and the spare parts for these watches will be reduced by an average of 47 percent. The state retail prices for pocket microcalculators and their spare parts will be reduced by an average of 35 percent. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Jan 79 ID]

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 2-4 JAN

LD050716 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 2 January reports that the harvesting of hothouse-grown vegetables has begun at the Mostovskoye Plodovoshchevod Association in the Kuban. These vegetables include cucumbers, tomatoes and eggplant and yields of 30 kg per square meter are being obtained. The vegetables are then sent to the spas of the Black Sea and Caucasus and the towns of the Kuban. Growing vegetables in these hothouses is cheap because they are heated by underground thermal waters. So far 12 hectares of hothouses have been built at this site and it is planned to build 100-150 hectares of hothouses there.

The radio at 1200 GMT notes that snow retention has been carried out on 800,000 hectares in Omskaya Oblast. This is half the area on which wheat crops are to be planted this spring. At 1700 GMT the radio reports that the aerial topdressing of winter crops is in progress in the Kuban. Mineral fertilizer has been applied to almost 1 million hectares of wheat and barley, which is half of the area sown. Most sowing machinery, according to the Radio, has been overhauled.

On 3 January at 1100 GMT the radio reports that mass winter moisture accumulation work is being carried out in Kazakhstan. Snow retention has already been completed on about 10 million hectares, which is three times more than this time last year. According to the radio the preparation of machinery for the sowing campaign has been completed in many parts of Kazakhstan and Tadzhikistan. In the country as a whole the overhauling of tractors and other machinery is proceeding faster than last year despite the difficult weather conditions. But slow supplies of spare parts is delaying repair work, particularly at the Altay engine works, the Pavlodar tractor works, the Volgograd tractor-builder association and the Kharkov tractor and tractor engine works.

The radio at 1430 GMT on 3 January reports that a Moscow Radio correspondent was told in the USSR Ministry of Agriculture that preparations for spring work had been completed by initiators of all-union competition, the rural machine operators of Krasnodarskiy Kray, Tulskey Oblast, Kemerovskaya Oblast, Donetskaya Oblast, oblasts in north Kazakhstan, Tadzhikistan and Moldavia.

The radio reports at 1600 GMT that grain growers in Moldavia are preparing for fieldwork. The preparation of spring ear crops and leguminous crops for spring sowing has been completed. According to the radio, 98 percent of barley, oat and pea seeds have been brought up to first and second class condition. New equipment is arriving at farms in Moldavia.

Moscow Domestic Service at 0500 GMT on 4 January reports that the plowing which precedes cotton sowing has been completed in Tadzhikistan. The plowing plan has been over-fulfilled; 103 percent of the plan was achieved. Mineral fertilizer has been applied and the plowing for other crops is nearing completion.

BRIEFS

PRIMORYE AGRICULTURAL LAND--The Dalgiprozem Institute has begun a complex study of Primorye's agricultural land--some 1.5 million hectares. Both soil and geobotanical studies are being conducted, which will facilitate more exact and scientific recommendations to aid sovkhozes and kolkhozes in using their land more rationally. The institute's teams have been rendering extensive assistance to land improvement workers. Their recommendations have made it possible to develop tens of thousands of hectares of land for the planting of rice and other crops during the current 5-year plan period. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0935 GMT 3 Jan 79 OW]